



Committee:

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April 1996

Newsletter 45

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Michael Dorn, Alexander Siddig, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Leonard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

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Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

Thanks to all of you who sent Sheila condolences on the death of her mother. She's getting organised now and getting used to her 'new' life.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Rupert Evans. Rupert was a stunt man and a stunt co-ordinator who worked with many great actors and actresses. He once taught Margaret Rutherford to sword fight for a Miss Marples film. Rupert was a close friend of Gene Roddenberry and has guested at a couple of Star Trek conventions, including the one Gene and Majel attended in Newcastle. We send our condolences to Rupert's wife Dru.

If any member who knew Rupert would like to send a message to Dru Janet will forward letters.

You have probably noticed that this newsletter is only 80 pages again. Unfortunately we have had to have a hard look at our finances. Membership is dropping as we get fewer renewals and new

members. For example we had 206 members due to renew with the last newsletter and at the time of writing this 120 of these renewals are still outstanding. As membership drops the cost of the newsletter per member rises, so we have no choice but to reduce the page count.

To try and offset the reduction in pages we are trying to reduce repetitive advertising. The one exception to this is conventions as they probably need as much advertising as possible. For zine buyers we will have info sheets available separately and just print updates and new zine adverts in the newsletter.

As to why membership is dropping, we don't really know. It is possible that with so much Star Trek on TV and so many magazines and merchandise available, many fans no longer feel the need to join clubs and discuss Trek with other fans. (It is noticeable at the Away Team meetings in Glasgow that most people just seem to go to watch episodes these days and not meet and chat with other fans.) There are also those Classic and TNG fans who have lost interest because nothing new is

being filmed. Since we obviously can't please all the fans all the time we continue to put out a newsletter which will hopefully appeal to the more active fans.

Convention-wise we decided not to go to Generations II this year. After giving it a try last year we decided that this type of event isn't really our cup of tea. On the other hand we would have liked to go to Warp 2 in May but for various reasons we are unable to make it. The only definite plan we have this year is to attend Contagion in Glasgow in July. Hopefully we will be able to make more conventions next year.

We are interested in receiving your convention reports and we will print what we can.

BADGES

We have button badges of the logo available for 50p inclusive; you can pay in stamps if you want. Foreign members can send 2 IRCs per badge. Please send your order to Janet with an address label.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is May 8th.

PLEASE put your full name on all submissions (including individual disc files) - if you don't and they get separated from your letter then we can't print them.

Email - send to Janet and she will try to confirm receipt within 2 weeks.
(Email - janet.quarton@almac.co.uk)

Computer disc - send to Janet. ASCII text files on MS-DOS, Atari ST, Acorn or Amstrad PCW - SAE to Janet for details. Please indicate *italics* by enclosing the text in < > and **bold** by enclosing it in [] (square brackets).

By letter or fax - send anything to be typed up for the newsletter to Sheila. Send news & cuttings to Janet.

Cartoons and anything else to be scanned - send to Janet.

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX, Scotland

Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH, Scotland

Our thanks to Barbara Ellams, George Haggerty, Fiona McDonald, Ben McClelland, Margaret Richardson, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Shaw, Alan Stephen, Mary von Heide, Valerie Herd, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

The list of secondhand books and zines for the guide dog appeal has been recently updated and there are many new items on it, including a lot of early Log Entries - SAE Sheila for a list.

USED STAMPS

Any American/Canadian members who would like to contribute used stamps can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We would like to thank Brenda Adams, Elizabeth Barrie and members of her church, Shirley Bedford, Jennifer Blanchard, Annette Bohm, Denise Colucci, Charlotte Davis, Olga Fernandez Del Val, Veronica Duthie, Mark French, Antje Freudenberg, Marta Galtarosse, Vered Gilad, Kathleen Glancy, Elena S Guasch, Katrina Heintz, John Hurles, Catherine Hill, Joanne Holden, Bill Hupe, Carol Kean, Ben McClelland, Philip Morley, Pat Price, Andrea Rasmussen, Sarah Rooke, James O'Donovan, Lesley Richardson, Allison Rooney, Neil Safi, Amanda Sinclair-Wheeler, Marion Stamatu, Helen Thompson, Jenny Turner, Teresa Tyler, Edward Woo, Estella J Woodhead, James Woodman and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We can use all used stamps, whether British

or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

We plan to post the next newsletter out around 29th May. Enjoy!

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 17/3/96



• Documentary on Gene Roddenberry

Marta Houske of MATRIX Communication is producing a biographical documentary project on Gene. Marta is searching for photos, letters, clips, memories, anecdotes, audio & video from old conventions and Gene lectures, etc. or anything re: the history of the Trek phenomenon in the UK

(particularly the conventions). If you think you can help contact: Marta Houske, MATRIX Comm., PO Box 6235, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90734 USA. Tel: 310-519-1984 Fax- 548-7189

• **The Changing Representation of women in Star Trek.** Clare Marie Phillips is writing a research paper with the above title. She would like people to contact her with their point of view, or possible meet her for a chat if they live in the London area. Clare Marie Phillips, 24 Arden House, Black Prince Road, Kennington, London SE11 8QH. Tel: 0171 735 3203



compiled by Janet Quarton

TV & SATELLITE

There is still plenty of Star Trek on TV with Classic Trek, TNG and DS9 on BBC2 and Classic Trek, TNG and Voyager on Sky 1.

BBC - screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
TNG		
7th Season		
255	Interface	24/01/96
256	Gambit Pt 1	31/01/96
257	Gambit Pt 2	07/02/96
258	Phantasms	14/02/96
259	Dark Page	21/02/96
260	Attached	28/02/96
261	Force of Nature	06/03/96
262	Inheritance	13/03/96
263	Parallels	20/03/96

423	The Siege	22/02/96 *
424	Invasive Procedures	29/02/96 *
425	Cardassians	07/03/96 *
426	Melora	14/03/96 *
427	Rules of Acquisition	21/03/96 *

TOS

1st Season		
09	Balance of Terror	21/01/96
17	Shore Leave	28/01/96
14	Galileo Seven	04/02/96
18	Squire of Gothos	11/02/96
19	Arena	18/02/96
21	Tomorrow is Yesterday	25/02/96
15	Court Martial	03/03/96
22	Return of the Archons	10/03/96
24	Space Seed	17/03/96

STAR TREK 8

DS9 (* Scotland one day later)

1st Season		
419	Duet	25/01/96 *
420	In the Hands of the Prophets	01/02/96 *
2nd Season		
421	The Homecoming	08/02/96 *
422	The Circle	15/02/96 *

• Jonathan Frakes is to direct ST8 Frakes has logged more than 20 hours of directing Star Trek episodes of TNG, DS9 and Voyager. He'll make his feature debut while continuing to play his Riker role in the film.

• Though it was said previously that the next Star Trek movie was set at a maximum budget of \$31 million, Paramount has gone the unprecedented step of bumping it up in the neighbourhood of \$40 million... a 25% increase. This will make STAR TREK: DESTINIES (the working title, at least for this week) the most expensive one yet. Sony Theatres is currently listing "Destinies" for release on November 22nd. (Subject to change, of course). According to Michael Dorn, filming of the movie is now supposed to begin April 28th.

• In the February/March issue of Star Trek Communicator, Rick Berman confirmed the following facts:

A composer has not been selected, but Paramount has produced a list of composers they would like to score the film.

A director of photography has yet to be hired.

The production manager is a Trek veteran; he served in the same capacity on Star Trek VI.

The Enterprise-E has *not* been finalized, but Herman Zimmerman is hard at work designing the interiors of the new ship.

There will be some location shoots in Oregon and perhaps Arizona.

H.R. Giger has been approached to redesign the Borg for the film!!

The Facts: (as reported in various trade magazines and newswires)

Director: Jonathan Frakes

Writers: Ron Moore & Brannon Braga

Producer: Rick Berman

Executive Producer: Marty Hornstein

Production Designer: Herman Zimmerman

Make-up Artist: Michael Westmore

Costumes: Robert Blackman

Budget: \$40 million

Shooting begins: Late March/early April

Release date: TBD (likely Thanksgiving '96 or a little later)

Starring:

Patrick Stewart

Jonathan Frakes

LeVar Burton

Michael Dorn

Gates McFadden

Marina Sirtis

Brent Spiner

Known story elements:

The Enterprise-E will appear

The Borg will be the major threat

There will be 3 guest stars of undetermined gender

Time-travel will play some kind of role

There will be *no* appearance from TOS characters or actors

DS9 script coordinator Lolita Fatjo is saying that there is in fact no guest-star love interest for Picard in the film, contrary to the previous reports. The rumours that Avery Brooks would briefly cameo were also debunked.

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 3 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Prod Num	Title
10/02/96	87	487 The Sons of Mogh
17/02/96	88	488 The Bar Association
24/02/96	89	489 Accession (was: The Other Emissary)
06/04/96	90	490 Rules of Engagement
13/04/96	91	491 Hard Times
20/04/96	92	492 Shattered Mirror
27/04/96	93	Muse
04/05/96	94	For the Cause

EPISODE SPOILERS

487 The Sons of Mogh - Directed by David Livingston; Written by Ronald D. Moore. Special Guest Star Tony Todd as Kurn, Guest Star Robert Doqui as Noggra.

Cast out of Klingon society because of Worf's dishonour, his outcast brother asks Worf to kill him.

488 The Bar Association - Directed by LeVar Burton; *Teleplay by Robert Hewitt Wolfe & Ira Steven Behr; *Story by Barbara J. Lee & Jennifer A. Lee. Guest Stars: Max Grodenchik as Rom, Chase Masterson as Leeta, Jason Marsden as Grimp, Emilio Borelli as Frool, Jeffrey Combs as Brunt.

Tired of workplace mistreatment at the hands of his brother, Rom organizes all of Quark's employees into a union and goes on strike against the bar.

489 Accession - Directed by Les Landau; *Written by Jane Espenson. Guest Stars: Rosalind Chao as Keiko, Robert Symonds as Vedek Porta, Camille Saviola as Kai Opaka, Hana Hatae as Molly; Special Guest Star Richard Libertini as Akorem Laan.

A legendary Bajoran appears mysteriously after more than 200 years and challenges Sisko's claim to be the Emissary.

Rules of Engagement - Worf is accused of using the Defiant to destroy another ship.

Hard Times: O'Brien commits a crime while in someone else's space and they sentence him to 20 years hard labour. He experiences it as 20 years but it's really only 2 weeks.

Shattered Mirror involves members of the Mirror universe coming over here. Jake, Jennifer and Sisko feature prominently and we see Crossover Garak, Smiley, Bashir and the Intendant again. **Shattered Mirror** introduces Crossover Nog who is running the bar after the deaths of Rom and Quark.

Muse revolves around a woman stealing Jake's life-force and the B story is about Lwaxana/Odo. Michael Dorn stated at a Creation Co that the episode involves Lwaxana Troi coming back to DS9, pregnant, supposedly with Odo's child!!! He said Majel Barrett had jokingly proposed it to Rene Auberjonois at a dinner, then later sold the story to Paramount!

For the Cause - features Kasidy Yates

The Quickening - Dax/Bashir episode directed by Rene Auberjonois

To the Death - a JemHadar story

Body Parts - Quark is convinced he's dying; also features Rom and Nog

The season finale will focus on Odo.

- Rowan Atkinson will guest star on Deep Space Nine later this season. Apparently Brannon Braga is such a fan of "Mr. Bear" that he personally wrote the episode with the actor in mind.

STAR TREK VOYAGER

Star Trek: Voyager.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Eps	Date	UPN #	Prod	Title
34	26/02/96	STV219	136	Lifesigns
35	03/03/96	STV220	135	Investigations
36	18/03/96	STV221	137	Deadlock
37	08/04/96	STV222	138	Innocence
Unconfirmed				
38	22/04/96	STV222?	139?	Thawed
39	29/04/96	STV224?	140?	Symbiogenesis

SPOILERS - Press Releases

STV220 Investigations - Directed by Les Landau; Story by Jeff Schnaufer and Ed Bond; Teleplay by Jeri Taylor. Guest starring Raphael Sbarge as Michael Jonas, Jerry Sroka as Laxeth and Simon Billig as Hogan.

Neelix, a suddenly self-proclaimed journalist, hears a rumour that a fellow crew member has expressed displeasure with Starfleet and requested leave. Soon, Tom Paris is relieved of duty to become a pilot with a Talaxian convoy - leaving a saddened Voyager crew behind. Almost immediately, the Kazon-Nistim and the scheming Seska attack the Talaxian fleet, kidnap Paris and attempt to coerce classified information from him. Meanwhile, Neelix suspects someone aboard Voyager has been secretly communicating with the Kazon and his sleuthing leads him directly to Paris.

221 **Deadlock** - Directed by David Livingston; written by Brannon Braga.

Astounding consequences occur when Voyager, while attempting to evade pursuing Viidian vessels, enters a plasma cloud. Before they can clear it, the engines stall, anti-matter supplies drain and Proton bursts, originating from within the ship, cause heavy casualties and breach the structural integrity of [the] hull. When Ensign Kim and Kes disappear into a void in space, Captain Janeway discovers a duplicate Voyager with an identical crew exists in a parallel universe.

While the crew feverishly attempts to contain the worst onboard disaster ever, The Doctor struggles to keep alive Ensign Wildman's newborn, half-Human, half-Ktarian baby. Then Janeway discovers that although a divergence field has caused all sensor readings to double and every particle on the ship to duplicate, there is not enough antimatter to sustain both vessels. As the Viidians close-in on them, she meets the other Janeway face-to-face to determine a solution, knowing only one of the two ships can survive.

Innocence written by Lisa Klink ("Hippocratic Oath" on DS9, "Resistance" on VOY) explores Tuvok's character when he crash lands on what is supposed to be an uninhabited moon but finds three young children there who ask for asylum - they were sent to the moon to die.

Symbiogenesis explores the arguments surrounding capital punishment, when a transporter accident combines two crewmen into one new entity.

Carel Struycken, (TNG's Mr. Homm) will be guest starring as a masked alien on an upcoming episode of Voyager titled "The Thaw." Voyager encounters a group of aliens who are in cryogenic suspension. The computer they are linked up to has created a VR world linking all their minds together. The Voyager tries to awaken them and the computer does not want to let them go. Carl plays an alien who tries to stop them and he even gets to speak. The episode also features Michael McKean as "Fear."

Roxann Biggs-Dawson revealed at the Vulkan con that "Basics" is the season finale cliffhanger, and involves the Kazon taking Voyager and leaving the entire crew stranded on a barren planet.

- Prepping for a full interview for the Star Trek Monthly magazine out of London, creator and exec producer Jeri Taylor tells me this season of Voyager will end with cliffhanger a la the peaking years of ST:TNG, with the conclusion - the fall premiere - featuring a yet-unfinalized tie-in appearance from the original series in honor of the Trek 30th anniversary celebration. As with last year, production this spring will include four holdover episodes to help UPN kick off the season ahead of its big brother competition; at least this year they managed to tell the producers about it first! (Info Starland Inside Trek - by Larry Nemeck)

- Eric Stillwell became Michael Piller's new assistant (Production Associate) on Star Trek: Voyager, at the end of February. All the best in your new job Eric. Eric was also on the production staff of TNG in various positions including Pre-Production Associate.

MISC

- **Trek Honoured** - The Screen Actors Guild will be giving the American Scene Award to Star Trek "groundbreaking casting decisions." Among examples cited were the casting of Nichelle Nichols and George Takei on TOS, guest-roles of deaf actor Howie Seago and ALS-stricken physicist Steven Hawking on TNG, Avery Brooks on DS9, and Kate Mulgrew on VOY. Rick Berman will be accepting the awards at the Screen Actors Guild awards on February 24th. (Reuters/Variety)

- **Award Nominations** - The Motion Picture Sound Editors announced their Golden Reel nominations for excellence in sound editing of TV shows and movies. Among the nominees are DS9's "Way of the Warrior, Part II" and "Visionary" episodes, as well as VOY's "Heroes and Demons." The winners are to be announced March 23rd. (Variety)

- The Star Trek Exhibition opens in Manchester at the end of March in the Science Museum. Stephen Shaw says that the pub at the nearest BR station (Deansgate) has changed its name and is no longer a Steam Train theme pub but now... a Space theme pub.

- While Jordan's Prince Abdullah, 34, was in Los Angeles, he visited the Star Trek Voyager set and wound up as an extra in one scene. "Take away the title and the trappings, and at the core you have a Star Trek fan," says Jeri Taylor, the show's co-creator and executive producer. Afterward, the prince, who is commander of the Jordanian Special Forces in real life, gave a party for the cast. (People section of the Feb 26 issue of Time International)

- Paramount Pictures has filed a multimillion copyright infringement suit against the producers of a Utah theater's comedy act based on the "Star Trek" TV series and movies.

The show, titled "Star Trek," is in the midst of a six-week run at the 250-seat Off Broadway Theatre in Salt Lake City.

Co-defendant Bob Bedore, who co-wrote and co-produced the play along with Eric Jensen, said he plans to fight the suit. "What we do is parody. The parody laws are very much on our side."

Bedore said the show, while clearly based on "Star Trek," avoids using actual lines of dialogue, and even changes the characters' names.

The lawsuit, filed by New York-based attorney Barry Slotnick, claims the show is not parody and therefore violates copyright law by using "distinctive creative elements and trademarks from the Star Trek properties..." Those elements include storylines, story elements and uniform designs.

The suit asks for at least \$100,000 per infringement, or a total of about \$2 million in damages.

The theater, which charges a maximum of \$8 per seat and gives away hundreds of tickets to community groups, expects to clear \$5,000 profit on the show, according to Bedore.

Bedore said the theater, which also has

staged parodies of "Gilligan's Island" and James Bond films, has never been sued before. (Reuters/Variety 29-02-96)

- Star Trek Tours Cancellation - An extract from a letter from Larry Owens at Paramount

"Specifically, we discovered in that trying to hold an event of this kind during the height of production activity for both VOYAGER and DEEP SPACE 9 as well as the pre-production planning for the next STAR TREK feature release was neither compatible nor possible with the availability of most cast and crew members. The timing for this event also created a conflict for other studio productions utilizing the premises and some of the same facilities planned for the tours (e.g. construction areas, exterior sets, screening theatres, dining accommodations, etc.). As I'm sure you can understand, our west coast facility is designed to be first and foremost a production service community for both our television and film product. The heavy industrial and mechanical operations scheduled for that weekend's production activity also became a safety issue and after taking into account the studio's weekend activity that would be disrupted or present safety concerns, we had no alternative but to conclude that the tour event would not be feasible."

- Cybill (Ch 4, Fri 21.00) is a comedy show about an actress (Cybill? from Moonlighting). The week of 25/2 she was an alien in a sci-fi film opposite Jonathan Frakes, dressed in a jump suit with an arrowhead on his chest and pips on his neck, playing second in command of a starship (sounds familiar?). He asked Cybill to go with him to a ST convention he was going to that weekend (what happened to Viacom copyright?) There were references to the Enterprise and the Klingons, and at the end of the show Jonathan knocks at her front door. (Cybill's daughter said "Who's that?", Cybill "Just Jonathan Frakes." Daughter "Jonathan Frakes, Commander Riker, second in command of the Enterprise?" Cybill, "Yes.") Switch to Jonathan outside, knock on door. "Nobody home." Taking out his communicator, "Enterprise, beam me up" - and dematerialised. (info Mervyn Leeder)

- Unitarian minister Richard Broeke gave a lecture 'The Theology of Star Trek', his own interpretations on the Next Generation, at Essex Hall, London on Tuesday 27 Feb. (Evening Standard 27.2.96)

- Star Trek Research Findings (University of Northumbria) - further to the inaccurate newspaper report on this in N/L 44 (p9), Jean Sloan points out - The average age of the respondents was 30.89, with a gender distribution of 43% male, 57% female. The actual report suggested, "that the typical fan's absorption in ST activities has positive and healthy outcomes... open-ended comments revealed that ST fans are articulate, politically aware individuals... the results of the investigation challenge the mass media's portrayal of ST fans as isolated, unhappy people who confuse fantasy with reality."

One goal of the research is to determine to what extent ST fans meet accepted psychological criteria of addictive behaviour. While there is much evidence of 'immersion' in ST, only a few fans appear to be demonstrating characteristics of clinical addictive behaviour. The report found that from the study group, an average of £362.50 per year is spent on ST activities and goods.

If you want more info about the research, contact Sandy Wolfson, Division of Psychology (0191 227 3427); Ian Inglis, Division of Sociology (0191 227 3417), University of Northumbria, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8ST; Fax 0191 227 3190; e-mail s.wolfson@unn.ac.uk

- The Daily Record (Feb 16th) carried an article on Roseanna Cunningham, the SNP MP for Perth & Kinross, saying that she is a Trek fan who has in her house one of the life-sized cutouts of Mr Spock as well as a number of other pieces of Trek memorabilia.

- We have been asked to publicise this **Classic Trek Letter Campaign**.

Please write Paramount and ask for one or two TV movies to be made each year, set aboard the Enterprise-A between movies 5 & 7, with Kirk, the original movie actors and Saavik, produced by Berman/Nimoy/Shatner and directed by Nimoy/Shatner; also a weekly TV series about Captain Sulu, including in his crew Rand (Grace Lee

Whitney), Majel Barrett at Dr Chapel and Sulu's daughter Demora (Jacqueline Lim). Typed addresses are most effective to send the chairman because business mail has to be opened by office staff; Star Trek should not be mentioned on the envelope; keep letters short and polite and do not mention being in a club. Write to The Chairman, Paramount Studios, 5555 Melrose Ave, LA Hollywood, CA 90038, USA; also to Executive Producer Rick Berman, Executive Producer Jeri Taylor, and Mr Kerry McLuggage at the Paramount address.

- **WILLIAM CAMPBELL'S FANTASTICON** Aug 2-4, 1996 (3 days) Los Angeles Airport Hilton, West Century Blvd.

Who's coming?: 60 or more actors from Star Trek, Babylon 5, and several other TV sci-fi shows to benefit the Motion Picture and TV Fund and its charities. Many stars will be signing autographs. List of those confirmed given below.

Activities: Panels, writers workshop with Paramount writers, Q&A sessions with casts from several top shows, surprise and announced autograph sessions, Saturday night gala dinner with celebrities, previews of upcoming sci-fi and fantasy films, special sets, stunt show, and much more.

Sleeping rooms: We have a room block at the LA Airport Hilton.

Membership cost: Tickets range from \$120-\$175 for entire weekend reserved seating; open seating \$90 for the weekend or \$70 for Saturday and Sunday only (the show is a full 3 days); tickets at the door will be \$35 per day cash or money order only.

To order by mail, send a check payable to Fantasticon to PO Box 821673, South Florida, FL 33082-1673. enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your receipt which you will need to bring with you to the con to exchange for tickets.

More information: Send a large self-addressed stamped envelope to Fantasticon at the mail order address. Or email Ruthanne at rdevlin@fla.net or joemotes@aol.com.

Participants list (partial, more confirm all the time. Appearances are subject to cancellation due to professional conflicts):

ST:TOS - William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, James Doohan, Walter Koenig, Nichelle Nichols, George Takei,

Michael Ansara, Anthony Caruso, John Colicos, Robin Curtis, Morgan Woodward
Babylon 5 - Bruce Boxleitner, Mira Furlan, Richard Biggs, Peter Jurasik

ST:DS9 - Avery Brooks, Rene Auberjonois, Terry Farrell, Max Grodenchik, Colm Meaney, Robert O'Reilly, Nana Visitor, Armin Shimerman, Andrew Robinson

ST:VOY - Roxann Biggs-Dawson, Robert Duncan McNeill, Ethan Phillips, Robert Picardo, Tim Russ, Garrett Wang

ST:TNG - Michael Dorn, Jonathan Frakes, Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis, John de Lancie

Space Above and Beyond - Tucker Smallwood

Others: Roddy McDowell and many many more to come!

• **SEATREK 97**, a 7-day cruise from Los Angeles with up to 12 Trek stars on board. June 15-22, 1997. Ports of call: From Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan & Cabo San Lucas. Rates: From \$949 Trek Partner (roommate plan) or \$1119 to \$1179 per person, double occupancy, plus port charges. Superior cabins also available. Already confirmed: Tim Russ, Roxann Biggs-Dawson, Majel Barrett Roddenberry, William Campbell, John de Lancie, Robert Duncan McNeill, Ethan Phillips, Garrett Wang, plus behind the scenes folks! More information:

Send a business size self addressed, stamped envelope to Seatrek, 8306 Mills Dr #198, Miami, FL 33183 or phone 800-326-8735 or email rdevlin@fla.net or ruthanned@aol.com.

ON LINE

Everything about Gates McFadden:
<http://www.pbs.port.ac.uk/~sis4381/beverly.html>

Simon and Schuster's Omnipedia page is at:
<http://www.mcp.com/ssi/ssint/omniupdate.html>

If you're an America Online member, a few Star Trek chats are coming up:

On April 6 at 11pm ET the Star Trek forum is pleased to have Armin Shimerman as our Center Stage guest.

And on April 13 at 3pm ET the ST forum comes right back with Marc Alaimo and Andrew Robinson together for Center Stage.

Paramount Home Video now has a site on the current Paramount World Wide Web offering (<http://www.paramount.com>).

[Sources of information include Ruben Macias' *Warp 10*, *Engage & Dateline Starfleet*, rec.arts.startrek.current/infol/fandom.1]



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES

Apr **ST: The Return** by William Shatner
 h/bk, audio.

STV7: Ghost of a Chance by McGraw/
 Garland pbk

DSN: Warped by K.W. Jeter pbk

TNG: Starfleet Academy 10: Loyalties by
 Patricia Barnes Svarney pbk

May **Klingon Book of Virtues** by Marc
 Okrand

TNG: Possession by J.M. Dillard

TOS: Rings of Tautee by Dean Wesley
 Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch

TNG tie-in Klingon by Smith & Rusch
 June: **Inside Star Trek** by Robert Justman and
 Herb Solow,

Beam Me Up Scotty - James Doohan
 biography by Doohan and Peter David

VOY: Cybersong by S.N. Lewitt,

DS9: Objective: Bajor by John Peel.

• June Pocket Book Releases

Beam Me Up Scotty - Montgomery Scott, the endlessly resourceful Chief Engineer of the Starship Enterprise, has been a familiar presence in our collective imagination for over three decades. But while everyone

knows Scotty, this is his fans' first time to get to know the true story of actor James Doohan, who brought the Starfleet's legendary miracle worker to life in the television series and motion pictures.

Written by James Doohan with Peter David. \$12.00, 384 pages with b/w photo insert.

Inside Star Trek - In 1964, Herb Solow was hired to run television production for Lucille Ball's struggling Desilu Studios. In April of that year, he met with a soft-spoken Texan named Gene Roddenberry who had an idea for a new science fiction series called Star Trek, and the two struck a deal on the spot. Joined soon after by Bob Justman, the men began an incredible odyssey to make not just a series, but television history.

Their story is a truly all-encompassing look at the making of Star Trek, from the unique personalities both in front and behind the camera, to the groundbreaking production methods and special effects that make Star Trek possible. Exploding myths about the series' early days, while creating new ones, this is a wonderful behind-the-scenes, photo-filled adventure that could only have been written by the people who produced the legend.

Written by Bob Justman and Herb Solow. \$30.00, 512 pages with b/w photos and 2-colour insert.

ST:DS9 #15 Objective: Bajor - A biological starship called The Hive is threatening to destroy Bajor. Unless Captain Sisko can find a solution, Bajor will become extinct.

Written by John Peel. \$5.99. 288 pages.

ST:VOY #8 Cybersong - A mysterious signal lures the Starship Voyager to an enigmatic ghost ship floating adrift in space. The ghost ship appears deserted, but soon a strange presence casts an eerie spell over the hearts and souls of the crew. Unless Janeway can solve the vessel's mystery, Voyager itself may succumb to its haunting song.

Written by S.N. Lewitt. \$5.99. 288 pages.

• **June Minstrel Books Releases (Children's Books)**

ST:DS9 #8 Highest Score - Jake and Nog are offered a job in a gaming room competing with other alien kids. But then they find out

the game they're playing isn't a game at all – suddenly the nightmare begins!

Written by Kem Antilles. \$3.99. 128 pages.

• **VIDEO UPDATE**

DS9 season 4 episodes

4.4 Little Green Men April 1st
Starship Down

4.5 The Sword of Kahless April 22nd
Our Man Bashir

Star Trek Voyager Episodes

2.4 Maneuvers April 1st
Resistance

• Pioneer LDCE Ltd are releasing Star Trek - The Pilots (Box Set) on laser disc. The set features every pilot and comes package in a foil blocked box. In includes The Cage, Where No Man Has Gone Before, Encounter at Farpoint, Emissary and Caretaker. Widescreen, SRP £79.99, 4 discs.

• The Star Trek Omnimedia update will have 3000 new entries (including Voyager entries), 750 new photos, A Windows 95 installer for the Omnimedia, and a print function.

• A series of videos produced by Baker Street Films are currently being sold in video stockists throughout the UK including Virgin, HMV, Woolworths, and Forbidden Planet. There are several titles in this series including Trek Shatner, Trek Roddenberry and Trek Sequels. At least one of these titles breaches copyright held by Contagion. The Trek Shatner video includes footage from the Contagion 1993 Souvenir Video without the consent of The Scottish Star Trek Convention. If you purchase these you are essentially letting a commercial company defraud the charities which Contagion supports.

• In August, Marvel will release a Star Trek X-Men one-shot comic book. In September, three ongoing Star Trek series will debut. Scheduled for release are Deep Space 9, Voyager and Star Trek: Unlimited. ST: Unlimited will feature stories from the Next Generation and classic Star Trek series. Reports suggest that after these are released, there will also be Star Fleet Academy and

Enterprise: The Early Voyages (featuring the crew of the Enterprise before Kirk was captain)

- Star Trek: Generations CD-ROM Adventure from Spectrum Holobyte has been rescheduled from a March to a May 1st release in the US. It features the voices of the movie cast and promises to be an exciting game. For more information players may call 1-800-695-GAME 24 hours a day in the US or Canada. Note: This is rumoured to be a Windows 95 version only.

- For the first time, all four versions of Trek will unite, into one massive tale, "The Ultimate Star Trek Saga." The story begins in a Classic novel, continues next in the Next Generation, then is followed in Deep Space Nine novel, and lastly Voyager novel series.

Star Trek #79 - Invasion: First Strike by Diane Carey

Star Trek TNG - Invasion: Soldiers of Fear by Smith & Rusch

Star Trek DS9 - Invasion "Time's Enemy" by L.A. Graf

Star Trek - Voyager Invasion: Final Fury" by Daffyd ab Hugh

- Fleer/SkyBox has secured the rights to produce a collectible card game based on the original Star Trek television series; the company has signed Mag Force 7 to develop the game. "Our classic Star Trek CCG needs to be a great game to capture the essence of the unique Star Trek property," Ken Baroff of Fleer/SkyBox said. "The game mechanic developed by Mag Force achieves both of those objectives." Look for the game this summer.

- Carel Struycken (Mr Homn in TNG) will be releasing a video tape interviewing John DeLancie (Q) as one of a series of interviews by Carel Struycken with other Star Trek actors. These tapes will probably be released in the USA.

- Star Trek: Klingon, the third in Simon & Schuster Interactive's Star Trek is due in March, is a realistic interactive episode that tests the user's skills in Klingon phrases, customs, body language, and even the proper cooking of gagh! Survive the crucial

Language Lab and you may test your newfound knowledge of TlhIngan Hol in the two-CD Immersion Studies. Here you are Pok, a young Klingon warrior caught up in the dangerous circles of Klingon clan politics. On the day of first Rite of Ascension your father is murdered in his own home and it is up to you with the help of Gowron, Leader of the High Klingon Council, to find the murderer and close the circle of vengeance. Along the way you will encounter strange aliens, treacherous friends, and even serve aboard the mighty Bird of Prey, the good ship BortaS!

MAGAZINES

- ST OFFICIAL UK Fan Club Issue 9. Contains articles on John de Lancie, Dr Crusher v Dr Pulaski, Travelling with the Q Continuum, Terry Farrell, plus news and reviews.

- STARLOG 225 April 1996. Includes an article on Michael Ansara (Kang).

- STAR TREK VOYAGER No. 6 (Starlog) Contains articles on John de Lancie, Joel Grey, Lisa Klunk and episode reports on Twisted, Parturition, Persistence of Vision, Tattoo, Cold Fire.

- STAR TREK DEEP SPACE 9 No. 14 (Starlog) Contains articles on Terry Farrell and episode reports on The Way of the Warrior, The Visitor, Hippocratic Oath, Indiscretion, Rejoined, Little Green Men.

- TV ZONE 76 March 1996. Includes part 2 of an interview with Garrett Wang; an interview with Jerry Harding who played Mark Twain in TNG's Time's Arrow and who also guested in TNG's When the Bough Breaks and Voyager's Emanations. There is also a TOS centre spread which includes a list of episodes.

- TV ZONE 77 April 1996. Includes an interview with Terry Farrell.


- TV ZONE SPECIAL #20 - OUTER SPACE SPECIAL. Includes a history of Trek and DS9; ST: Voyager; Louise Fletcher (Winn); Camille Saviola (Kai Opaka).

• **STAR TREK Monthly No. 12 Titan.** This issue includes news, books, videos and merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, DS9 Season 1 overview, Rene Auberjonois, Terry Farrell, Star Trek Movie Guide and a TOS/TNG Comic Strip.

• **STAR TREK Monthly No. 13 Titan.** This issue includes news, merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, Leonard Nimoy, The Red Shirt Count, Spock's Family, Kim Catrall, Daniel Davis and a TOS/TNG Comic Strip.

• **STARBURST 210 Feb. 1996.** Contains part 2 of an interview with Ron Moore plus an interview with Melinda Snodgrass.

• **STARBURST 211 Mar. 1996.** Contains an interview with Jennifer Lien (Kes).

• **WIRED (Jan '96)** - An article Write for Star Trek! by Jeff Greenwald explains what they want - and what they don't want! Pictures are of the production team. 



Cast & Crew NEWS



• **Fan Mail** - Try actors' clubs first, especially with gifts! Mail sent to Paramount may not reach addressee. When writing to an actor always enclose a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon (available at main Post Offices).

Send TNG/DS9 mail to Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, USA.

Send Classic/Movie Mail c/o Lincoln Enterprises, 14710 Arminta Street, Panorama City, CA 91402-5904, USA

Exceptions:

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA. Majel will autograph a photo if you send one, or she can supply an autographed photo for \$5 plus SAE and postage. (UK 3 IRCs) Please say whether you want Chapel or Lwaxana.

Nichelle Nichols, c/o Jim Meechan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

Grace Lee Whitney, POB 69, Coarsegold, CA 93614, USA.

Robert Justman, POB 491008, Los Angeles, CA 90049-9008, USA

• **LeVar Burton** - President Clinton has announced the nomination of actor LeVar Burton to the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

• **Jonathan Frakes** will host a new UPN one-hour paranormal reality series tentatively titled "Borderline." The new show will debut

in March.

• **Gates McFadden** - Early in March Gates was in Bosnia with a USO tour.. She signed autographs and had hundreds of soldiers get pictures taken with her.

• **Leonard Nimoy** is making his Broadway directing debut with "The Apple Doesn't Fall." The play is scheduled to go to Broadway in April after a "trial run" in Los Angeles.

The book on tape release of Leonard Nimoy's "I am Spock" was nominated for a Grammy Award.

In a US interview Nimoy stated that his projected sci-fi novel will deal with a character implanted by aliens to enable them to study our society. The aliens are technologically advanced but "sociologically they're a mess" and they think that humans may have the answers they need.

Leonard Nimoy will make a cameo appearance during a skit in Muppet Show, the full title of which is "Pigs in Space: Deep Dish Nine -- the Next Generation of Pigs in Space".

• **Andrew Robinson** was nominated for two directing awards by the LA Drama Critics Circle. Andrew directed two plays entitled "EndGame" and "The Homecoming".

• **Dwight Schultz** (Barclay on TNG and VOY) will appear in an episode of the Paramount syndicated series "Nowhere Man" as the character Harrison Barton.

• **William Shatner** was on the December 95 cover of Tinnitus Today, journal of the American Tinnitus Association. Shatner has filmed several public service spots for the ATA and has joined them as an Honorary Director. (Tinnitus is "ringing in the ears" without an external sound to cause it. William Shatner suffers from tinnitus.)

William Shatner will guest star in an upcoming episode of NBC's Fresh Prince where he'll suffer "Star Trek Flashbacks" after being knocked out in a dentist chair.

• **Marina Sirtis** is making her American stage debut in the comedy/mystery "Loot" at Hartford Stage through March 16, where she plays Fay, "a pious, much-married woman with a secret dark side."

• **Brent Spiner** hosted the Feb. 8 instalment of TNT's "Our Favourite Movies" series, in the USA, providing commentary on Hitchcock's classic "Rear Window."

Brent Spiner recently filmed an episode for the New Outer Limits. This is a redo of the classic sci fi/horror series from the sixties. There are no details about the episode yet, other than the info that Brent has a fight scene.

• **Patrick Stewart** - The next transmission of Twelfth Night workshop with Patrick Stewart is scheduled for 12th May 1996 at 7.05am on BBC2.

According to the producer the Paramount video "From Here To Infinity", with Patrick hosting, was supposed to have been released here in the UK on February 7th. We haven't had any confirmation of this.

Grammy Winner: Spoken Word Album For Children (Producer award. Artist in parentheses.) "Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf" -- Dan Broatman & Martin Sauer (Patrick Stewart; Kent Nagano, conductor); (Erato)

"Death Train" starring Pierce Brosnan & Patrick Stewart has been shown on SKY Movies.

Patrick and Kenneth Branagh hosted Bravo's Shakespeare Film Festival February 2-5 in the USA.

Patrick has recorded a CD ROM called "Nine Worlds" - A fascinating interactive journey through the solar system including Pluto. The CD ROM will also be updatable, and creates instant links between the user, NASA, JPL, The Hubble Space Telescope, even Cerro Tellolo in Chile.

Nine Worlds was created by the same production unit who did "From Here to Infinity" and "Patrick Stewart narrates The Planets".

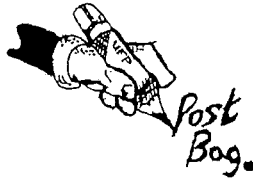
It should be on the market in May, from Palladium Interactive.

Portico Designs do some nice charity greetings cards (blank inside) of Patrick Stewart printed in black & white. Their address is Portico Designs Ltd., Unit 6, Siston Centre, Station Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4PQ.

• **Douglas Trumbull** - The American Society of Cinematographers will award their prestigious President's Award to Douglas Trumbull on February 25th. The honor will be bestowed at the Society's 10th annual Achievement Award banquet. Mr. Trumbull is perhaps best known for his work on such films as "2001: A Space Odyssey", "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" and "Blade Runner." He was nominated for an Academy Award for his work on the latter three films.

[Sources of information include P.S.A.S., High Trek, rec.arts.startrek, current/infolfandom, Compuserve SF Media Forum, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]





Please read our letter on page 1.

We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

You might find it useful to use the following smiley symbols occasionally to indicate that your comment is not to be taken too seriously.

- :-) Basic smile
- ;-) Winky smile
- :-(Frowning smile

• Alan Jones, Rock Lea, 9 Hodgson Fold, Bradford BD2 4EB.
E-mail alan@propath.com

To Kenneth Robert Beach (N/L 44 p23/24), Re Why is ST merchandise so dear? I agree. A lot of merchandise is extremely expensive. I suspect that there is a conspiracy to rip-off all of us fans. My advice is this:

1. Be selective in your choice of STMDSE (ST Merchandise) and avoid highly priced

'limited editions'. There are 100's of these so called Ltd editions around now & it is just an excuse to get more money out of us.

I must admit to being taken in & I spent £100's before realising that many of these things are poor quality and don't represent good value for money.

The reason there are so many of these now available is simple - They are very profitable for the manufacturers and the vendors.

2. Be careful where you buy your STMDSE. Specialist Sci-Fi shops charge top-whack prices. I now refuse to purchase from these outlets as a matter of principle. Unfortunately, these shops usually stock the rarer items & more comprehensive ranges.

My suggestion here is make collecting STMDSE fun, take your time to build up a collection & get a thrill out of finding new pieces for your collection in unexpected places. I have made many new penfriends from swapping & trading STMDSE items with other collectors & fans. Often I find that I can easily obtain certain items, whereas my friends in other parts of the country cannot get hold of these, but can get items I have not seen. In this case we both buy extras & swap.

3. Be very choosy on quality. I am sure we all suffer from the 'must have it all' syndrome. The fact is that there is so much STMDSE around that it is impossible to purchase it all. So pick & choose, only buy items of good quality and only buy items which you will enjoy. If we all do this then poor quality stuff will disappear, eventually.

4. If you are on a limited budget then do not buy straight away. Many items can be picked up a few months later at knock down prices. I can provide a list of my favourite

shops if required.

5. Buy 2nd hand from fellow fans who have either lost interest or need some cash for the next video boxed set!

Following on from this - Does anyone collect Bandai Action figures? (the 4" ones), If so:-

I am in the process of trying to document a complete list of the figures which have been released in the UK & in the USA. I have found out that many of the figures featured on the back of the packets have not been released in the UK only in the USA. Bandai UK say this is because they were not popular in USA, so they don't bother releasing them here. Write & let me know which figures you have got. If you can give me the stock code as well that would be useful.

I have managed to find out about new figures being released this year, and can provide details if anyone is interested. I also have info on which figures are produced in smaller numbers and are therefore harder to find. If lots of you are interested then perhaps I'll submit an article of my findings to IDIC.

Leading by example - I have spare figures for swap (I am not interested in money changing hands & prefer to swap, but if you have nothing to trade & really insist....).

Here is an interesting thought though - Bandai are set to release 10's of different figures this year alone. Are they milking the market, especially when they bring out many different versions of each character in different uniforms, or are they providing a comprehensive and interesting range of collectible toys as a service to fans? (I'll go for the latter, but I'm biased!)

Finally - A complaint against IDIC. Why did the last N/L (44) contain an ad for some STMDSE? Is this to cut costs? OK you may argue that this is a service to all us fans, but my personal opinion is that the Merchandise on offer is one of the high cost Ltd edition items I have just been talking about. If you are going to 'endorse' anything at all I would at least expect to see good quality, fair price

items being offered for sale. What do other people think?

[Janet: IDIC does not endorse anything which is advertised in the newsletter or in flyers and we have never charged for advertising. We only enclose flyers as long as it won't increase postage.

It has always been our aim to bring members any information we can get hold of. What you do with the information is up to you. We would be interested in hearing what other members think.]

• Baerbel Schmidt- Ashford, Kent

Reading the discussions about tolerance and using proper language when disagreeing with other people's views reminded me of my experiences when I first started to participate in newsgroups on the Internet a few weeks ago. I had been warned before that quite a few people posting in it are very rude. When I actually started looking through the contributions I could see that the warnings were not exaggerated. But on the other hand, I was fascinated by all the information and different opinions I could read. Well, my first article I wrote was "Stop killing off characters", referring to Generations and Vedek Bareil. Remarks (especially concerning Bareil) like "What's wrong with you?" were still the more polite ones. Amazingly enough soon a discussion started which characters are expendable and who are not - what I didn't intend to start at all. But I didn't let this experience spoil the fun for me - and I also got very positive and interesting reactions to other contributions. People who are connected to the Internet, who are not too sensitive and not too easily "spoiled" should try newsgroups!

This is also what I want to tell Classic fans. Yes, I am no Classic fan and prefer the "modern" Star Trek, but I respect people who like Star Trek's roots. Don't let some rude and thoughtless remarks spoil your fun watching Kirk & Co.! But respect also us Trekkers who prefer other Star Trek series. I would never say that Classic is bad, I just have a different taste and different opinions! Let's exchange these opinions in a civilized manner (I like your article, Dave!) and listen to each other open minded. Isn't that what IDIC is about?

Looking through the newsgroup contributions and considering other sources I could see an interesting development. Not so long ago, DS9 was criticized heavily and there were strong rumours that DS9 will be cancelled while Voyager was praised. Now it is the other way round. I could hardly find any criticism about DS9. Also I think DS9's fourth season is brilliant so far and it is now by far my favourite Star Trek series. I heard that also the ratings are better now. On the other hand, Voyager is already condemned by many viewers to be doomed and I heard that the ratings fell so much that Voyager could be cancelled with the third season. I am still waiting for the latest episodes but what I read about them worries me. Especially "Threshold" must be absolutely dreadful, perhaps it is even the worst Star Trek episode ever! "Meld", the next one, is supposed to be a good episode. This gives me hope.

To Sheila - The Founders don't believe in Odo's judgement about the "Solids" because they don't want to believe him. The history the Founders had with the "Solids" made them bitter, full of hatred and prejudice. They simply can't and won't understand that not all "Solids" are bad. In my latest Babylon 5 episode "Passing through Gethsemane" a monk said a very interesting sentence: "Forgiving is a hard thing to do, but something to always strive for." I hope that the Founders will one day be able to do just that, break the circle of hatred and come to an understanding. But if this happens, it will take a long time.

• Ben McClelland, 78 Woodwarde Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8UL

Oh dear! I agree with Anthony Freelove: It seems to me that quite a few of us are taking sides on the "which series is best?" debate. Not only that, but the general amount of slagging off has reached a frenzy. Let's see... we've had CT being "dull and boring", TNG "lacking original stories" with "poor" characterisations and "2nd rate acting" and DS9 being "pessimistic". Now of course everyone is entitled to share their views, but I think "sharing" it right into other people's faces is a bit harsh. So come on guys (you know who you are), perhaps a few apologies wouldn't hurt, huh?:-)

I have just seen Way of the Warrior, and I have to say that it was a great episode (well two episodes, or whatever)! I'm still not quite sure what to make of Worf joining the crew, but I expect he'll probably prove his worth almost immediately. I have to admit that it does feel quite exhilarating to be back at war with the Klingons, although we're not strictly at war (or are we?)

To Jay Stevensen - re "Official" fan clubs (nl43): I had one very bad experience with the Official Fan Club in America. About three years ago, I joined the Official Fan Club of America. I received my first magazine, and decided to order some merchandise from it. It was supposed to be my birthday present from my parents. We placed the order, and it took seven months to arrive. I wasn't too impressed, but I was cheered up by receiving my next magazine. And then they stopped sending them. Eventually I had to write to them twice before they realised that they hadn't sent me them. I eventually got them about a year after the end of my membership. Pathetic, huh? The magazines weren't even any good. There were a few articles, but most of it was just merchandise.

To Gary James Foggo - It's very simple: people dress up in uniforms because it is fun! Any good psychologist will tell you that it is healthy to have a fantasy life, as long as it doesn't overwhelm you. So why not just lose your real personality and 'make believe' every so often?

Does anyone know where I can get hold of that extremely tasteful (erhemmm) Star Trek song... you know, the 'Klingons on the starboard bow' one?

Any fellow Bajorans: Write to me! I love getting letters!

• Bill McClure - Plugged into The Great Machine on Epsilon Three, conversing with The First Ones... ["ZOG"]

To everyone - re: the on-going debate over all the post-Roddenberry changes in Trek - As I pointed out in n/1 43 (and Marcia Stanislawski backed me up in her article "A Dream of Stars" in n/1 44), the subtle messages and themes behind a TV show can

leave a very strong, lasting impact on all the children who might be watching out there... So, whereas TOS and TNG taught us: "It's been my experience that the prejudices people feel disappear once they get to know each other," (Kirk, "Elaan of Troyius") and "The first duty of every Starfleet officer is to the truth," (Picard, "The First Duty"), *now* we seem to have somehow gotten around to DS9 dispensing "gems" such as *this* to our children: "The truth is usually just an excuse to cover a lack of imagination," (Garak, "Improbable Cause"). Is that *really* what you want to teach your kids? Even tho' I'm not a "breeder," even *I* can recognize the inherent dangers.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - re: the Defiant's use of (any) cloaking device technology - A cloak is a cloak, and according to Gene, *all* Starfleet personnel are supposed to have too much integrity and dignity to ever employ something based so solely on deception and trickery...

To TMara - re: all the TNG crossovers occurring in DS9 and Voy - Gee, do you think it might be because they've finally realized they did the wrong thing by pulling the plug on TNG too soon and now they're desperately scrambling in an attempt to recoup that lost audience...?

To Margaret Connor - re: Berman's proposed re-tooling of Federation history in the next movie - Simply the next step in erasing everything from Gene's legacy. Now that they've killed off virtually everyone (and every Enterprise), why not emulate Gowron and "re-write all the history books"...

To anyone concerned about Chakotay's mixed religion - It's obviously an attempt to remain politically correct by including another racial minority, but now it seems they don't really know what to do with it, especially since no *real* group of "Indians" wants to claim him... But gee, can you really blame them when they've portrayed "Indians" as being so concerned over the *ownership* of "their land" ("Journey's End"), and insinuated that they could never have evolved their intelligence without extraterrestrial intervention...? ("Tattoo")

To Antony Freelove - re: recent arguments in the Postbag - It's not the members of IDIC who have changed, but rather the quality of the product they're viewing. The very idea behind IDIC maintains that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. And here in the States at least, we still had Freedom of Speech the last time I checked. So, just because someone chooses to state their opinion, that doesn't make them "unhappy" or "miserable." Like they always say about censorship on TV, if you aren't enjoying the program, you can always change the channel...

To Neil Barrett - re: your pragmatism vs. my "unrealistic" aspirations - "We must strive to be more than we are... It does not matter that we will never reach our ultimate goal. The effort yields its own rewards..." (Data to Lal, "The Offspring")

To James O'Donovan - re: Data as a "toaster" in "Measure of a Man" - Capt. Louvois based that ruling on "the acts of Cumberland" which had been passed centuries before Data was ever "born," so he had apparently just slipped through the cracks in the legal system. It's simply because Maddox was the first to ever *legally* challenge that outdated ruling which caused the problem.

To Christopher Howell - re: "Homefront/Paradise Lost" - Sadly lacking in Changelings if you ask me, altho' it did point out another of those analogies illuminating the similarities between the discrimination faced by shape-shifters and gays - "Most importantly, *we* do not fear you the way *you* fear us. In the end, it is your fear that will destroy you..."

To Antony Freelove and Jill Searle - re: "take away DS9's uniforms" - and you've got Babylon 5... (or a lot of ugly naked aliens running around!)

To Vered Gilad - re: Harlan Ellison promoting B5 merchandise - Ha! Good luck trying to find any!

To Jennifer Cobbing and Alberto Gorim - re: DS9's desire to imitate B5 - Doesn't

"Shakaar" sound a lot like "G'Kar"...? Also, in "Return to Grace" Dukat laments the Cardassians' recent "defeat" by the Bajorans (*huh?!*) - an obvious attempt to mirror the oppressor-becomes-the-oppressed storyline of B5's recent Narn/Centauri war...

To Vered Gilad and Gul Melset - re: Cardassia vs. Bajor - Same thing as above... Just look at Berman's last name... Bajorans = Jews, Cardassians = Nazis, and Obsidian Order = Gestapo...

To Jason Rorbach and Jean Sloan - Thank you for your kind compliments re: my TNG Christmas poem! I'm glad you enjoyed it!

• Penny Robinson, Hemel Hempstead, Herts 100630.532@compuserve.com

To Alex Blakeney: as a not-yet-published fan writer I was sorry to learn that it is so rare to get any feedback when a story is published. Since discovering the wonderful world of zines I have sent several letters of comment here and there; it is a practice I would recommend as I have benefited in my turn from the contacts! However, I have only written where I could praise, never with what I shall call friendly criticism. But your letter made me wonder whether perhaps that is not enough.

Sometimes I do read a story and see how it could be improved. But I, too, have wrestled with the construction of stories, and I know how wounding it can be to learn that someone does not care for what I have written. I wonder how I would feel upon receiving criticism, however friendly, from someone no more qualified than myself. Yet... feedback must be a good thing, and intelligent, considerate criticism is amazingly helpful. Perhaps those of us who enjoy fan fiction owe it to ourselves and each other to exchange comments on the unsatisfactory as well as the excellent. What do other writers - and readers - think? Is there an unwritten rule that praise is sent direct to the author, criticism goes via the zine editor? Perhaps there should be?

To Neil Barrett: your analysis of the three aspects of a successful writer was interesting, but when it comes to Trek novels, is it really

necessary to have commercial acumen? Anyone who is writing a Star Trek book is writing something that, if published, is pretty well guaranteed a market. Presumably it is up to the editors to distinguish whether the thing is worth publishing.

To my mind what primarily distinguishes fan fiction from the professional kind is that the former focuses on the characters, the latter on the action-adventure plot. I know which I prefer to read.

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Gary Foggo - Re fans discussing the psyche of characters, etc. What fans read into a character may not be what the writer intended, but good writers do have - must have if they're to write convincingly - a back story that never appears in the book/episode/whatever, that establishes for the writer the history of the characters. In other words, the writer has to know what makes his characters tick. If this is properly done, you have a tightly written, interesting and entertaining story. Badly done or not done at all, and you have a sloppily developed story that is easy to criticise and characters whose motivations are far from clear; and Trek fans being what they are, want to try to resolve this lack of clarity. In other words, what is being discussed is actually story development and the quality of the writing - not a belief that the characters are actually real.

To T'Mara (and Brenda Allan) re Spock's Brain. I too quite like this episode. However, it has always seemed to me that it could actually have been quite a good episode if a) the sexes on the planet had not been separated (there was no logical need for it) and b) Spock had been kidnapped - not just his brain through a hole in the top of his head - put into some sort of suspended animation and hooked up to the underground control system. The general development wouldn't have needed much change (the crew would still have had to find the right planet, find their way underground, and persuade the natives to let them have Spock back, possibly even with McCoy needing to operate to 'unwire' Spock from the Controller); the development would have been slightly different, obviously, but the gain in

credibility would have been enormous.

Also to T'Mara and Nancy Wilson, re Deep Space stations. I have been doing a massive reorganisation of the house, and in the course of this I found a set of plans for "Deep Space Station K Class", dating back to at least the mid 70s, so the reference "Deep Space Station" actually goes back to the days of CT.

Re special effects, etc, helping in getting the story across. I don't agree. *Nothing* will totally salvage a poor and badly developed script. All that the most brilliant FSX can do is buffer it. This is one reason why I think Wrath of Khan (for example) is a bad film. I don't criticise the acting or the directing, and the FSX are excellent - but the actual story has so many holes in it - on which the development of the film depends - that it holds no credibility for me. Some of the best episodes - in all four series - are the ones that are about *people*, and involve few, if any, SFX.

• Catherine Hill - Burntwood, Staffs

[Sheila - This letter was actually sent in in time for N/L 44, but I accidentally filed it in with personal letters to be answered. The points in it are therefore from N/L 43. My apologies to Catherine.]

To Sheila Clark - Yeah, I agree about Janeway's voice, it suits her. My dad really winds me up by saying she sounds like a duck and the reason they say, "Captain on the bridge" when she walks in is to remind themselves she's actually the Captain and not some duck!

To Maria Woodward - The 37s is great! I got the video for Christmas and I've watched it at least twice. Wow! Viva Voyager! Can't wait to see season 2.

To Allan Kelly - Actually, I think Neelix and Kes make *good* jokes! OK, so they don't really serve any purpose on the ship except for Kes being a nurse, but I can't imagine Voyager without them. Neelix is very funny, but I guess that does depend on your sense of humour.

To Liz Caldwell - I like Neelix. I don't think Voyager would be better off without

him. I wouldn't exactly call him 'cute', but he's certainly funny and the comments and jokes he makes light up the show.

To Jay Stevensen - Much as I love DS9, I don't really have a great love for the pilot episode either. I'm so glad I saw later season 1 episodes before Emissary because I think if I had seen the pilot first I would have been put off the series. But I have persevered with this episode (I guess I must have seen it about 5 times now) and it *has* grown on me a little - stressing *little*. Voyager's pilot was much, much better.

To Neil Barrett - Peter David may be a 'smart arse' but he is a *great* writer. My favourite novel of all time is Imzadi, and I find I can open the book at any point and just read. The storylines in all the ST books of his I've read have been intricate, complicated and very well written. Q-Squared is quite a one to get your head round - even more complex than the brilliant Imzadi.

To everyone - Isn't the new IDIC logo great?! Well done, Mark McLean!

Jonathan Frakes is directing ST:VIII! This is great! Generations was directed by a Brit, and now the 8th movie is being directed by Jonathan Frakes! Cool!

I just watched The Way of the Warrior for the second time. For anyone who hasn't seen it, I'll just say it is the most *amazing* DS9 ep. ever! Actually it's probably among the best of any Trek. Brilliant.

To Jason Rorbach - I agree with everything you said with regard to the different Trek series. I love all of them and I like the fact they are all different and unique. I think people should stop trying to compare them - they are *all* Star Trek, different from each other as they are.

To Antony Freelove - On the same note as my comment to Jason, I agree we should lighten up and just enjoy Star Trek together. I realise everyone has their own preferences, but we all love the same show. It should be us against the world, not us against each other! :-)

To Alan Stephen - I really hope the fourth season of DS9 will not be the last. It's such a terrific show and I've loved it since its beginning. Voyager was started way too early in DS9's life and what with all the hype of All Good Things and Generations, it really hasn't had a fair shot. I will be so angry if DS9 finishes now - it's too good to go!

To Christopher Howell - Hmm, top 5 DS9s? This was tough, but I came up with The Way of the Warrior; The Adversary; The Homecoming/The Circle/The Siege; Improbable Cause/The Die is Cast; Duet.

To Les Moyes - Brilliant article on Dark Trek! I reckon Trek and horror definitely mix!

Peace and long life to everyone.

• **Gul Melset - Cardassian Embassy**

To Brenda Kelsey - Re your experience with quark. This cheese has to be spiced, and then it is one of the best meals imaginable. You can use fruits for a sweet, or for a more substantial meal, onions, garlic, salt, pepper, herbs, butter and enjoy the lot with jacket potatoes.

To Allan Kelley - Classic Trek may seem slightly dated today, but at the time it was an excellent series and as far as was possible touched on issues that no other series addressed. I loved it very much, and even though DS9 is now my favourite among the various Trek series, I still enjoy it. In no way would I reject CT, if only for the fact that it was the beginning of a programme which has united so many different people who all enjoy it, for one reason or another.

To Bill McClure - Black Vulcans are no problem for me. I prefer having the alien races of Trek composed of different ethnic groups - considering the fact that every planet has various climates, as well as various conditions, it would hardly be possible to imagine a people composed of only one race.

It seems I made a glaring error in my own letter (N/L 43); I meant to say "Personal contact - a privilege I was accorded - was prohibited..." My apologies. I am now

adjusted to the high doses of medication, so my ability to concentrate is again standard. (So much for "There are no side effects at all...")

How many mixed-race individuals are we going to get? While Spock and B'Elanna Torres certainly were desired and conceived by means of genetic engineering, I really wonder about Gul Dukat's daughter Ziyal. I can hardly imagine him going to a clinic with his Bajoran mistress and requesting that procedure. Although the Seeders spread humanoid genetic material throughout the Galaxy, it is unlikely that the various races would be compatible. To take up Sheila Clark's comment to my letter in the last N/L, genetic drift would make the code so vastly different as to preclude spontaneous procreation. Based on a simple experiment here on Earth - robins and finches are related, separated as species by only some millions of years, and yet, put a robin and a finch together and the outcome of the experiment will be zero offspring. If two related Earth species are unable to procreate, how much more unlikely will it be for two races who have evolved separately over hundreds of millions of years to produce young! I fear the scientific advisers are not what they used to be.

Finally found the source of those passages of music for the Voyager theme; the overture of The Flying Dutchman. Singularly appropriate.

To Bill McClure - Sorry to disappoint you. I saw no lights while listening to that massacred song. It did make me wince, though. Nor is my real name Elim Garak; I am a female Gul. I did enjoy your comment, consider it a friendly one, and return your hug cordially.

• **White Hawk**

As a new member of IDIC I am glad that somebody is encouraging the diversity of life. Too often we see people making quick judgements of others on only a surface examination. Of course, it takes time to see that person's good attributes. Some have hidden talents.

It is on this note that I say do not dismiss any series or species on Star Trek. They each have something to say. Man is fallible, and as such can learn from others.

I think Chakotay on Voyager is the one person who has shown this aspect to the fullest. Season 1 was good, with episodes where Tuvok shone out like a beacon, as was the episode where B'Elanna Torres was allowed to meet her Klingon half. It takes time to get to know someone. Do give this series a chance.

Lastly, I say don't get too serious. Why don't you have fun? This is hardly a hobby that will harm you physically or mentally! Live long, and live life to the full.

• David Gallagher - Fulham

Just a few lines this month, prompted by Leslie Moyes' article Dark Trek in N/L 44 - in particular the reference to Stephen King possibly being inspired by the Star Trek episode Where No Man Has Gone Before in his writing of the novel Carrie.

This set me thinking - wouldn't it be great to have a Star Trek novel actually written by Stephen King?... Which further set me thinking, who would I most like to see write a Star Trek novel - or indeed a screenplay?

Can you imagine Quentin Tarantino's Star Trek movie? Phasers on very heavy kill!! Of what about Chris Carter having a go? (By the way - does Starfleet Intelligence still have an X-Files section in the 24th century?)

So - how about it, gang - who would you most like to see writing a novel, episode or film for Trek?

• Kaz Draklon (Alberto Gorin) - De Bruynlaan 5, 6816PW Arnhem, Holland

I would like to wish every member of staff a very good New Year.

To all Babylon 5 fans - I love B5, it's a very good show; it's not stupid or dumb. The same goes for Space Beyond and Above - it's also a very good show and not stupid either. I like DS9, but a little more excitement would be welcome. On the other hand, we think of

Star Trek as a starship, not a space station. The last few good SF shows I remember were Battlestar Galactica, Knight Rider, Airwolf, Blue Thunder - all gone. I am happy B5 came - hope it's here for a long time.

If anyone has information on new starships, preferably heavily armed starships, *please* let me know, I can't wait for Enterprise-E and the new Klingon cruiser.

• Ambassador T'Pol - Vulcan Embassy (Maggy)

In response to Fans of the Original Series Stand Up (P59, N/L 44) by Gloria Fry.

Gloria, Gloria, don't despair
There are other Classic Trekkers out there.
We all lust, and feel the same
Trekkin' has always been a hard game.
Always been a 'them' and 'us'...
Many new Trekkers make me cuss -
Just put it down to youth;
They'll be better when they cut their first tooth!
Whenever a script writer kills Spock or Kirk dead
They are still alive inside my head -
A far, far better place to be...
After all, they are far safer with me!
(That isn't entirely right;
Safe maybe until the night...)

OK, so I'm no poet - but I think you get my drift...

• Adam J North - alone in space, Norwich

I'd like to start by saying what a great job the IDIC committee do!

Tuvok the first black Vulcan? Actually, no. Watch the scene in STV:TFF where Sybok is taking away Spock's pain. The Vulcan woman who is delivering the baby Spock is black!

To everyone who is waiting for a reply from a ST actor they have written to. I wrote to the lovely Shannon Fill (Sito Jaxa, Lower Decks) well over a year ago, and last week I got a letter from her! So don't worry; some get around to it eventually!

To Mr R J Robinson re the absence of

Vulcans. Curious, I notice this too. I am actually part Vulcan (I have a point on my right ear!) so I notice the lack of logical minds.

• Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Alex Blakeney - I think you were lucky to get 5 responses to your first story. The experience of the other writer you quote is more typical - I had 4 fan novels published by ScoTpress in the 80s and as far as I know, the only letter said the person liked the latest and when was another due out? You just don't get constructive feedback from readers. The SF community has such things as Orbiters (you can join if you're a member of the British Science Fiction Association) where writers circulate and comment on each others' work. I believe Blakes 7 fandom has started one for fan fiction, and maybe you and a few other ST fan writers could get one together.

To Eagle Mirror - I thought McCoy said the tribbles were born pregnant, or was that just a flip comment? I haven't watched the episode for a while.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - I have to correct you about fan fiction. It definitely is *not* vanity publishing. Vanity publishing is where someone pays to have their writing published (regardless of its quality). Fan fiction is a branch of the long-lived amateur press movement - the writer sends the work to an editor who is free to accept it or *reject* it according to her opinion of its quality. The editor publishes and distributes the zine, usually giving a free contributor's copy to the writer. VP, on the other hand, entails the printer (not publisher) handing over the print run to the author, often not even bound up (ie just loose pages) who then has the task of trying to get someone to buy them (and usually ends up blocking up their garage with a stack of stuff nobody wants).

Some interesting articles this N/L. I'm not sure why there is so much griping about the various series. I enjoy TNG and DS9 (haven't seen enough Voyager to know yet) though they obviously don't have the same emotional weight for me of CT, which I saw at the age of 12. I mean, I had a massive crush

on Spock for a start! There are still great stories in there and the emotional bonds between the characters. Yeah, the costumes are tacky by today's standards but that's the charm. The SFX were actually pretty good for TV at the time. It has to be watched with a mind to its *context* and a suspension of any tendency to compare it with modern TV. In a similar sense, if I sit down to watch a 1950s series like the Quatermass serials, I don't expect them to have the production standards of the 1990s. You can enjoy things on their own basis - stories, characterisation or whatever - if you try some patience and openmindedness.

CT is actually less dated than a lot of 1970s shows, as can be seen from watching recently reshownd programmes like The Persuaders or The New Avengers. If new fans try to keep this sort of thing in mind if they're finding it too much of a culture shock when they watch CT, they might find themselves able to give it another try. And remember - it was the original vision, and deserves respect for that.

• Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

While I agree with Janet's view that Gene Roddenberry did not create Star Trek with a view to making loads of money (all else apart, merchandising was in its infancy at the time and he could not possibly have foreseen how successful it was going to be) I am somewhat bemused by her picture of writers as being primarily motivated by a desire to share their visions with others. Any writer who aims for the popular market does it to make a living. Some of them *also* want to share a vision, others are hacks. There is nothing *wrong* with wanting to make a living by your pen, not does it mean that what you produce is devalued. Take Dickens - Dickens did not set out to write great classics - he wrote for the mass market of his day, the weekly journals. If he had been born a hundred years later he would have written for television. Much of what critics praise in his work - the rich characterisations, the subplots, the frequent use of story-within-a-story - was shaped by the need to fit his story into a set format. Because he was a genius he produced great classics along the way.

To Rhiannon - I'm not sure if racism is a learned fear, or not completely. The target of the racism, yes, that has to be, as Oscar Hammerstein put it, carefully taught. But racism itself, I'd say, is part of the "natural fear of the unknown", as you put it. Go back long enough, people were living in very restricted areas if they weren't nomadic. Familiar territory was about as far as you could walk and return home by sunset on a summer's day. Anywhere else was full of unknown dangers. Your own territory had dangers too, but you knew about them and could take avoiding action. By the same token, *anyone* you didn't know was dangerous - he might want to kill you, rape you, steal your food, take over your cave. Quite often he *did*, since if he had been driven to leave his own territory it was because it had become inhospitable. All racism boils down to "We are the centre of everything, and *they* want to take what we have away from us - how dare *they*, as only *we* are human beings". It is this inborn instinct that makes racism, and indeed discrimination by religious or sexual orientation, so hard to eradicate. Even innocuous-seeming customs have their roots in racism, not always by colour of skin. Take the Scottish custom of a First Foot. The person who is the first to enter a house after midnight on 31st December must be male, tall and dark to be lucky. Red-haired men are particularly unlucky. This was because in the Dark Ages in Scotland the arrival of a red-haired man on the doorstep tended to mean *very* bad luck to the house, as he was likely to be a Viking out for plunder, and accompanied by a lot of his red and fair haired friends. The Celts were mainly dark. The requirement for height could date back even further to the Picts, who were dark but small, and understandably hostile to the Scots (Celts) who were driving them into extinction. The requirement for masculinity is easily explained - as the house had to be cleaned from top to bottom for the New Year, the women were too busy to go out anyway.

What we have to do is admit that the racist instinct is in all of us but, to paraphrase James T Kirk on the aggressive instance, we are not going to be prejudiced *today*.

To Neil Safi - Do you *really* need to be told

why we say "Eureka!?" (What are they teaching them in the schools these days?) Assuming you do - the Ancient Greek mathematician and physicist Archimedes is reputed to have formulated the principle of specific gravity or relative density when, getting into his bath, he noticed how his body displaced the water. He was very pleased at this and sprang out of the bath and into the street shouting a phrase in Ancient Greek which, translated into our alphabet, comes out as "Eureka!" It means, "I have found it!" or more colloquially, "I've got it!" Whether the bit about the bath is true or not, the exclamation passed into common use.

Sheila, what happened to the title of that poignant Scottish ballade "Oh Ye Canna Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus"? *[Sheila - I don't know, and what's more to the point, none of us noticed it was missing when we proofread, either. Some deep psychological quirk, perhaps? Those things are fun to read, but hell to type! (More, please!)]* Incidentally, I am astonished that Spock did not perceive when it was sung to him that the tune was the same as that used for The Female Will Circumnavigate the Prominent Elevation of the Planetary Surface to a Considerable Height, When She Does So". (He might then have made some comment on the illogic of going to a high altitude in pink pyjamas instead of cold weather gear.) Clearly, he has not come across She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain When She Comes.

• Sarah Rooke - In the Celestial Temple with the Prophets, Portsmouth

Thank you, Janet Quarton, for voicing a shared opinion about Star Trek in its various incarnations - you are not alone in this.

I find all this palaver over whether CT is better than TNG, B5 than DS9, etc rather silly. What most people tend to forget is that they are expressing a personal preference for something, and it should be respected and left at that. Shades of all this nonsense is whether Blur is better than Oasis, methinks... Good lord, what difference does it make? Watch the shows because you enjoy them, not to pick holes in them! So what if you like only CT, TNG, DS9 or Voy? We all have an aspect of the Ferengi, Betazoid, Bajoran,

Klingon, Vulcan, Romulan and even Cardassian in us - okay, some more so than others, I must admit, and some not at all. We are understanding ourselves in the process through Star Trek (in all its contexts), and shows like B5 as well.

The universe does not care if you are pink or yellow or blue with green spots. Gene's message is saying to us, "Hey, let's see what could happen if we all come together in harmony". As you say, what hope is there for us if we don't put silly arguments like these aside.

Yes, we are all individuals and in the words of Fritz Perls, Gestalt Psychologist - "I do my thing, you do your thing. I am not in this world to live up to your expectations and you are not in this world to live up to mine. You are you, and I am I. And if by chance we find each other, its beautiful; if not, it can't be helped."

To Eagle Mirror - Hear, hear! My own spirit guide's a crystal - proving that minerals have an intelligence and life force all their own (it makes a change from Red Indians - with apologies to all spiritualists!)

To Judith Taylor - I understand and respect your concept of time. It is very similar to the lines adopted by Miery (?) Hope in her views of linear time (or inner time) and I believe what you are referring to is arrows of time, or time corridors - otherwise known as wormholes! Time loops, which are closely allied to black and white holes as well as parallel universes and the multi-dimensional universe, but more on that later. However, we may be pawns in the game of the gods (shades of the chess scene in Jason and the Argonauts) - as long as we allow this to take place. We have more control over our destiny than we may ever really realise. If we think of something happening we can attract those forces responsible for it to happen. The Buddhists have a saying, "With our thoughts we make the world"; what we think, act, do or say has a cause and effect somewhere, and we should also take note of how other people influence us likewise - for it is surprising. (It is all about programming and conditioning.)

• Veronica Duthie - Dundee

I would like to thank all concerned with IDIC over the past two years, during which I have been a member, for a great and interesting newsletter. I have just renewed for a third year and very much look forward to it.

To Helen Cakebread - P46 - I find IDIC excellent as it is, and would not like to see it packed with pictures. There are lots of pictures in OSTFCUK, of which I was a member for one year only - that was enough for me. IDIC gives more in *one* newsletter than in a year of the other!

To, James O Donovan - P38 - I found Measure of a Man a very moving episode and would agree that Starfleet would not have accepted Data to train as an officer had he been viewed as a 'toaster'. Perhaps in their eagerness to dismantle Data they tried to deny he was a sentient being? Thankfully they were proved wrong.

To Janet Quarton - P29 - I totally agree that if everyone were the same in their likes and dislikes life would be pretty boring. I enjoy all Trek, but I do have my favourites, likes and dislikes. (Not many dislikes, though.)

Finally, hi and thanks to my new friend Julie in Liverpool. Your cartoons are great and your friendship valued.

• John Wigley - Stockport

This is my first letter, so it's going to be short. (Great mag, by the way, it's unusual to see so much intelligent thought together in one place).

I Am Not Spock is wonderful, everyone must read it or they'll have to answer to me! (And I'm TNG through and through, only so-so about TOS) *(Sheila - Do you really mean I Am Not Spock? Don't you mean I Am Spock? I Am Not Spock came out in 1975 and is long out of print!)*

To Helen White - Dead on about the film boxed sets - though the four beginnings box set is good value for a newcomer to the Trek world.

Finally, a question. In Gambit II, when the mercenaries board the 'D', are Worf and Co clued into Riker's ruse by the fact he kept his phaser in his left hand throughout - or am I missing something obvious? Just a thought.

• Martin Stahl - Germany

To Baerbel Schmidt - I, too, hope that Michael Jackson won't appear in ST 8. Firstly, I simply don't like him. Secondly, which is more important, whatever character MJ would play in the film, the viewer would always see MJ playing a role in the movie, not the character played by him. There was a similar problem with Iman as Martia in ST VI, and with MJ this problem would be much bigger. In an interview regarding ST:TMP, Gene Roddenberry said once that they won't use very well-known actors like John Wayne for the movie for exactly this reason - the audience would see only the actor, not the character.

To Helen White - I noticed that you were missing from the N/L for some time, and it's good to have you back. I send you my best wishes.

To Eagle Mirror - Tribble genetics? No problem, it's my speciality (although I'm actually working on yeast genetics). I see no problem with young tribbles being born white and the older ones having all colours. They simply get their colour when they get older, like seal babies.

To Sheila Clark - I understand your concerns regarding the third and fourth season of DS9. I'm not keen on the threat posed by the Dominion plus the new bad relationship with the Klingon Empire. Even Voyager develops into a similar direction. The Voyager was thrown into the Delta Quadrant to present the audience with new aliens and cultures, and not Klingon civil wars for the fifth time. And what happens? Too many episodes dealing with the Kazons and Seska. SPOILER ALERT When she announced that she impregnated herself with Chakotay's DNA I bet that in every coming season there will be at least one episode with Chakotay searching among the Kazon sects for his child. Please not! On the other hand, yesterday I watched Our Man Bashir. It is one

of the best episodes for a long time and I enjoyed it very much. My favourite character was Anastazia aka Kira - a wonderful performance!

• Floranna Limonci - Glasgow

I really look forward to each issue of IDIC, only to get more and more annoyed with letters praising only one Star Trek series to the detriment of the others.

My ST history starts with CT to the stage where Kirk et al are more familiar to me than my nearest and dearest and because of that familiarity, in almost all situations, I know how the characters are going to react, and that's what makes them (shall I say) lovable.

But I'm really saddened when I read that ST is only ST if Kirk & Co are involved or that the newer series "don't adhere to GR's future vision" in which we will have overcome our worst failings and go out into the universe solving problems by Truth, Justice and the Roddenberry Way.

Don't forget it's taken millions of years to evolve as far as we have (ha! ha!). Is it really likely that 500 years will make that much difference to Earth's humanoid race? I don't think so! Look at us 500 years ago - we haven't changed that much, just better sanitation.

My version of Gene's vision is much bigger than a few TV shows (wonderful though they are). The future he envisaged for mankind should be told as fully as possible, not just the adventures of one ship or space station.

Therefore to ensure the continuance of ST and the ideals we love, each new series should catch the imagination and touch the heart of each *new* generation as CT did mine because it spoke to *that* generation.

Please, please, please let's stop all this bickering. I love CT, adore TNG, enjoy DS9 more and more and am waiting for the lightning to strike Voy.

As has been said on this planet for 30 years and who knows on some other planet

for millennia - Live long and prosper.

• Diane Burch - Exeter

I've never put pen to paper before, and have been a member of IDIC since it started; in fact, there are only 208 people before me.

As long as I can remember I have loved Star Trek, in the early years waiting and hoping that the Beeb would repeat episodes, however it seemed like years between them. I didn't know that fan clubs existed. In the years between the first showings and the Motion Picture there was a void, with an occasional episode on TV, but in the days before video, if you missed it, it was tough luck.

With the Motion Picture my enthusiasm was reawakened. I couldn't wait for the next film, if there was to be one. (Incidentally, I have enjoyed all the films, some more than others; I like IV, II, III and V best. Generations improves if you read the book of the film after the film (paperback one has the new ending in it). It's a shame that the actors who play Spock, McCoy and Sulu weren't able to be in it.) It was around this time I think that I discovered there were fan clubs, and joined one. It was there I discovered fanzines, which I enjoy very much, and have quite a few. Unfortunately when I got married a few years ago, I sold them - the worst thing I ever did. I'm now building up my collection again, but so many of the ones I had are out of print now.

To me ST is a good story, relationships, trust and above all loyalty. I prefer the Original Series, but I do watch the others. I enjoy Voyager although I have to rely on a friend to video it from Sky, and he doesn't always remember.

I thought that I was obsessive, but from reading other people's letters I don't think perhaps I am. I don't see why it's necessary to pull the plots to pieces, to say that some series are bad or boring, as letters in the Postbag have suggested. If everyone enjoyed the same things, how dull life would be. Surely IDIC encompasses all.

I would like to ask if there are any other

members of IDIC in Exeter or the surrounding area. I am in contact with one, but that is all. I don't have much time for writing letters, I work full time, am a member of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society and am at present learning British Sign Language; however, I would like to get in touch with other Trekkers.

• Lesley Arrowsmith - Bwthyn Llaysiau, 1 Pontithel, Three Cocks, Brecon, Powys

The Shuttlecraft is no longer at the expected co-ordinates. I've had to move out of the Victorian Bookshop, Hay-on-Wye, for a combination of reasons. This winter has been the worst, in the book trade, for 17 years and basically I wasn't selling anything from the shop. The shop was only rarely open on the days when the owner was supposed to be running it, though he expected me to be there promptly and continuously when I opened up.

I'm now trading from home and through Blinking Images, Oxford Rd, Hay-on-Wye, which specialises in photographic books.

I've just read Dark Mirror. I love Diane Duane's work and this has some of her best. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Song of the Twelve, sung by Hwii, the Delpohine character, at a moment of great stress, they can find it in one of Diane Duane's children's books, Deep Wizardry, in which her young wizards help the whales and sharks perform the Song. All 3 of the Wizard books are excellent, and are called So You Want to be a Wizard, Deep Wizardry and High Wizardry (Dr Who has a walk-on part in this one!) I was also delighted to see that Hay-on-Wye was mentioned in Dark Mirror - still a book town in the 24th C! [*Sheila - There is a fourth book in the Wizard series, A Wizard Abroad.*]

Bjo has done it at last! I've seen the Concordance, and it is as I expected, brilliant, and with some very good fan art throughout. I was buying stock at a local warehouse that deals in a lot of remaindered books and they had a damaged copy of that and several other ST items. My long-suffering husband had to drag me away before I went severely over budget!

A point of information - the publishing history of some Titan books can be rather misleading. I recently bought a copy of *Star Trek: The New Voyages* ed. by Sondra Marshak & Myrna Culbreath. It was a familiar title, and a smart cover with a still from *Spectre of the Gun*, a list of cast names who had given special introductions to the stories, and forwarded by Gene Roddenberry. The publishing history said "First edition August 1992, British edition by arrangement with Bantam Books". What it should say is "first British" or "First Titan" edition, as I realised when I checked my bookshelves at home, as this collection of short stories was first published Mar 1976 (my copy is the tenth printing, June 1980, published by Bantam with different cover). I wonder how many other Titan books give the impression of being new stories when they are, in fact, reprints from the 70s? [*Sheila - All the Titan books are reprints, although most of the ones they're putting out now have been O/P for years. Titan never had the rights to put out new, original Trek fiction.*]

Finally, has anyone been listening to the SF season on Radio 4? There have been some good programmes on space science, John Gribbon exploring SF themes with various authors, including Brian Aldiss, Iain Banks and Doris Lessing, and a fun quiz called 'To Boldly Go...' In the last of these, the science correspondent at Radio 4 brought along her phaser, tricorder and communicator and demonstrated their authentic sound effects throughout the show. (Sue Nelson is an OS fan).

I've just got N/L 44, and I'm in complete agreement with Janet Quarton and everyone else on the same subject - let's all remember IDIC. When I first came into fandom in the early 80s, one of the best things after Trek itself was the acceptance between people of wildly differing views. If you made a fool of yourself or said something stupid, there was a genuine tolerance which does seem to have slipped a bit recently. Of course, in those days there was only the original series. However, to take issue with someone instantly - to Gary James Foggo. I take it that you wear your mountaineering gear on a mountain? Wearing uniform at a con is

exactly the same thing.

To Neil Safi - Eureka is Greek for "Hand me the bath towel".

• Sue Bursztynski - Australia

To Neil J Barrett - enjoyed your article very much! But don't be so hard on the Mary Sue! It can be awful, true. So what? The kind you mention is generally written by young writers. And Mary Sue finds its way even into straight SF (such as Anne McCaffrey's *Restoree*) and canon Trek (what else would you call *The Paradise Syndrome*, for example?) At its best, it can be a lot of fun. No one ever complains about the ghastly space battle stories written by *male* teenagers!

I like fanzines because they're flexible. You can kill, marry or strand anyone or blow up the Big E, etc. However good a pro novel is, you *know* it will end with everything set right. I rarely read even the best pro novel more than once, while I have a lot of affection for my fanzine collection, even the awful ones, and I do re-read my favourites.

To Carol Sterenberg - I thought *I* was the only person who wrote from the middle back and forward. It works, too, as does typing it up - both shake the brain into gear. A word of warning, though; if you want to go pro, *don't* let fan fiction take over. I speak from experience - it took me years to break the habit. Meanwhile, I couldn't write anything else. Fan writing is fun and can teach you a lot. Just be careful, that's all.

To Alan Stephen - Alas, Harlan Ellison isn't exactly unbiased, is he? It may be a case of sour grapes; they butchered his script years ago and he's been rude about Trek and Trek fandom ever since. His annoyance is understandable - I'd have been furious too! But is it fair to take it out on us? Some Trek fans are fanatical, but that's true of any 'fandom'. I never heard that any Trek fan threatened to hit someone for wearing the wrong uniform, as a fan of a rival football team did my brother for wearing his team's hat. Trek fans don't generally riot and vandalise as happens when some soccer fans' favourite team doesn't win. The worst that can be said of most Trek fanatics is that they

dress funny and waste a lot of money on merchandise, and surely that's their own business? Well, perhaps some are hard on the actors, but at least no one ever shot a public figure to impress a Trek cast member!

I've read David Gerrold's rejected Trek script - the gay characters were only characterised as such in one line, "You two have been together a long time, haven't you?" It could have meant anything. The episode storyline was a metaphor for AIDS, but would have gone right over children's heads. It was a beautiful script - pity it wasn't filmed.

• Jean Perrin - Burton upon Trent

I actually quite liked the shortened newsletter. When several people go to and all report on the same con it can get a bit tedious. I know they all see it through their own eyes, but there are only so many ways you can accurately report what the guest speaker said and did, and I hope you won't take up Helen Cakebread's idea of cutting down on the letters. I was under the impression that interaction between the fans is what we were all about.

To all those who get a little upset with members who don't like TOS. I am old enough to remember the first time round, as I suspect many of you are. I guess most of the ones who don't like it are much younger and to them it's old fashioned. Although I loved it, when I watch the old episodes now, I have to admit it is dated and so I can see why the youngsters don't like it. When you get long shots of the Enterprise or a shuttle flying through space you can all but see the strings; it often looks as if someone is standing behind it with a magnet moving it along, but what the young fans don't realise is that these effects were pioneers of their day, just like Star Trek itself. Most of them would have difficulty believing you if you told them that even the most basic pocket calculator with the four basic mathematical functions wasn't even on the market in those days. The trouble is that technology has come on further in the last thirty years than it did in the previous three hundred, so how would we 'oldies' feel if we were asked to watch something from 1696? But TOS approaches space travel from

a different standpoint; it is not about technology (Scotty loves his 'bairns' but how often does he mention anything more exciting than dilithium crystals and antimatter?) it is about people and relationships. Neither TNG, DS9 nor Voyager have anything that even comes close to the friendship and camaraderie of Kirk, Spock and McCoy so it can't really be compared with the other three Star Trek series. So why don't we all enjoy our own favourites and let others do the same - IDIC!

To Adam J North - I don't think OSTFCUK is really a fan club, if they were a pop group you'd expect to get a lot more than four magazines a year for your money. All it is really is a subscription to a quarterly magazine and by the time it comes out you can already have read most of the same stories and reports in monthly mags like Starburst, TV Zone, ST Monthly and even our own IDIC mag.

To Gary James Foggo - I have just one question for you. With your attitude to Star Trek, why did you ever join a ST fan club?

To Kay Staggs - If you have asked the question were you the one in ten who has lost a grip on reality, it probably means you are not, which is a pity really because most of the reality I read about in the press is not worth keeping a grip on. The world of Star Trek is a much nicer place.

• Vered Gilad - PO Box 6404, 61064 Tel-Aviv, Israel

To Jean Perrin - P21 - First of all, Tuvok does not have to be a copy of Spock or any other Vulcan. I find him an adequate Vulcan, even without all those attributes that you mentioned. He doesn't have to shout to everyone, "Look at me, I'm a Vulcan!" His mannerism speaks for itself. Notice the stoic behaviour - no smiling, no excitement - passivity at its best. Another thing, if I'm not mistaken, there is an episode in which Tuvok mind melds with Parris, so here is the first Vulcan attribute out of the list you gave. Probably we will see more of them as time goes by. There doesn't have to be a Vulcan 'something' in every episode. About Tuvok being less Vulcan than Spock, who is a half

Vulcan - well, it is well known that Spock always tried to be overly Vulcan to compensate for his weakness, ie being half Human.

To G J Foggo - P 32 - I find discussing Trek episodes in a serious manner as a way to discuss ourselves, usually about social, political and psychological aspects. It doesn't mean that I'm living in that world and treating what I see on TV as real. ST is about us in its bases and that is what we are discussing. I don't think this should be considered living in the ST world. We are living in our world and are trying to understand it with the help of ST.

I have decided that the title of "most interesting letter" in N/L 44 goes to T'Mara's letter, P 46.

To Eagl  Mirror - P 39 - Re younger tribbles having no colour. Sounds like Dalmatian puppies, who are born completely white and get their distinguished spots only as they grow older.

Re Siddig changing his name. I can understand it if it was done because of mispronunciation. I have heard numerous versions of my first name from English speakers, and my father got fed up with Israelis mispronouncing our original family name (Gould) and decided that if it had to be changed, he would make that change himself. Otherwise, I think that Siddig el Fadil is a great name and is unique.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - P43 - Re if I think there will be children on Enterprise - E - if it were up to me, NO. But of course it is not up to me, and as there is a tendency to ignore certain facts (especially nit-picking fans) then we will have to consider the fact that children will continue to be a part of starships with no consideration whatsoever to their well-being.

I was wondering why Kirk and Co had to retire? How come Sulu, who according to the ST Encyclopedia is only 4 years younger than Kirk, continues his Starfleet duties as a starship captain, if all the rest of the bunch are out of a job? Can anyone speculate if Sulu

was still Captain of Excelsior when Ent-B was commissioned? If he still was, then why couldn't Kirk continue being a captain? Why doesn't Chekov get his own command? And Uhura? If *they* are all so tied up with Kirk, how come Sulu isn't? To anyone with ideas for answers to these questions, please reply!

Another question - about Odo. How come he doesn't go back to his original liquid form when he faints? How come he loses consciousness when he is hit by a rock on his 'head'? It is not a real head, after all, and how come the rock doesn't go through him? Is he a shapeshifter, or what?

• Robin Dunn - Edinburgh

Hi! This is the first time I have written to the newsletter. After reading N/L 44, I had to put pen to paper.

To Dave Styles - Your article was spot on. I remember watching CT in the 60s on a black and white TV. As a kid, nothing would come between me and that show; but nowadays I have to admit I prefer NG and DS9. Why? I just do, no explanations needed. I have videos from all Star Trek series in my collection (only the NG and DS9 collections are complete), this through personal choice. I just wish we could all agree on the following:
1) Each show has its good and bad bits.
2) We are all part of the Star Trek family and although we may disagree sometimes, we should respect each other's individual choices.

To Starbase 96 - the best con I have been to. Patti Yasutake and Jennifer Hetrick were superb.

To Christopher Howell - My DS9 top 5 - Duet; Blood Oath; Family Business; Battlelines; Civil Defence.

To Judith Taylor - Page 45 of my copy of N/L 44 is now covered with coffee, as I was drinking a cup when I read your Darth Vader joke. More, more!

To Janet, Sheila, Valerie - Keep up the good work. IDIC is the best fan mag I have seen.

• Jenny Turner - Birmingham

The last two newsletters have been excellent, full of comments and opinions. Isn't guide dog Brodie lovely!

I don't agree with Harlan Ellison entirely, but he's got a right to his opinion as much as anyone else though to call people who like Star Trek and buy merchandise 'pathetic' is coming on a bit strong! I suppose I could be called one of those, as I bought (or was fleeced - matter of opinion) a lot of Star Trek stuff in the 70s and 80s, but everyone, I believe, goes through phases which eventually start to wane. I only buy books now, as I think there is too much merchandise where at one time there was nothing.

I suppose you could call an Elvis fan, or screaming at pop stars 'pathetic', if it comes to that.

To Gill Marks - Reincarnation? Why not? Leaves on trees die but grow again. Even if we do come back, we wouldn't know.

Yes, I believe in UFOs. Some people *are* cranks, but why should we be so arrogant as to think we are the only people in the universe(s)? Lots of professional people see UFOs, including airline pilots, and it certainly wouldn't bother me to fly with someone who would probably be classed as 'certifiable' because they said they'd seen a UFO. When the time is right, we will know.

On the subject of criticism of zines, books, etc - yes, I do expect a decent book or zine for my money, but there are good and bad books; I wouldn't criticise because I couldn't do better myself. I can get the ideas for a story but am not very good at putting these ideas down on paper.

I wish I had been one of the people who met Leonard at a signing (or the con) - why didn't he come to Birmingham for a signing? Also there are lots of cons, but none in Brum - why not? Don't they like us any more? *[Sheila - I believe the problem is one of hotel size. I remember being told that the Grand wasn't really big enough, and that although the hotels at the NEC are good and big, and*

the NEC was a good venue, they priced themselves well above what any con could afford.]

Could we have some more poems in the N/L, especially funny ones?

• Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

Ironical, isn't it, that in the very same newsletter that Harlan Ellison and I are castigated for suggesting that some ST fans take ST a tad too seriously, there is a report that confirms our assertion.

Harlan Ellison is not a nut or a pillock but is one of the greatest short story writers, on par with Jorge Luis Borges. HE has been bitter about ST since writing *City on the Edge of Forever*, first because of William Shatner who counted his lines and demanded that he have more lines than Leonard Nimoy. Second because Gene Roddenberry kept demanding rewrites, which HE did, then after having agreed with Gene that the script was complete had Gene doing a further rewrite on it, claiming that HE's script was too expensive and unfilmable. At that time HE had been working in television for many years and knew how to write a script and keep it to a budget. Finally, he was asked to write the script for the first ST movie only to have a Paramount exec demand that he have some Mayans in it! (Also the fans who haven't taken too kindly to his criticism of Gene, and have threatened him.)

I don't know if HE is on the Sci-Fi channel in this country, my local cable operator does not provide this service as yet. I hope he is on - we need commentators like him who demand that science fiction be the best it can be, and not settle for some fan boy's dream; and as for people 'stabbing' back at him anonymously on a computer bulletin, that's cowardice. Not funny. If you can't put your name to it, you shouldn't print it. No wonder HE has a low opinion of Trek fans.

To Dave Styles - It has nothing to do with extrovert/introvert, you obviously haven't been to a convention with me or HE! Do you honestly believe your statement, "Does it really hurt or offend anyone that I collect Star Trek cards?" If so, why have we had our

protracted disagreement over comics? Surely the same statement applies?

I thank everyone who agreed with my views. It's nice to feel I'm not alone. I really care for Star Trek and I want it to be the best show possible, but I feel some fans and merchandise detracts from this fan's demands for good stories like the recent DS9 episode *The Visitor*; or *Inner Light*; *Family*; *The City on the Edge of Forever*; *The Doomsday Machine* - to name some of my favourite episodes. As fans we should be celebrating these and condemning the bad episodes. Let Paramount know quite clearly we want good stories and not some tosh to please the fanboy.

To quote another favourite TV show - "And now for something completely different"; I've discovered a marvellous solution to all those botched model kit paint jobs; *Modelstrip*, which removes the paint and leaves the surface clean for repainting. I bought my supply from our local Beatties'.

• Brenda Allan - Dawson Creek, BC, Canada

All comments refer to NL 44:

First, to Antony FreeLove (p23) - I totally agree with your comments on the general pettiness that has emerged in the NL. I could not have said it better. It's true that we will not always agree all the time, but let's be gracious about our disagreements!

Second, to all of you who think that DS9 is so bad because being on a space station limits scope of stories -- how far do the people of any good drama shows travel and still have good story value? I know that DS9 is a "space show", but good stories do not depend upon the highest warp factor they can muster! :-)

To Jean Perrin (p21) re What kind of Vulcan is Tuvok? Why must he use the V hand sign and say "LL&P" all the time? Spock only used these gestures when greeting a new person or saying farewell; he didn't use it every time he came on bridge for his shift! As for no mention of pon farr, do you discuss your biological function publicly? :-) Vulcans

are very private; look how long it took for Kirk to drag the truth out of Spock, even when it was glaringly obvious that something was troubling him. And for mind melding -- see the disastrous results in the episode "Meld".

To Alan Stephen (p27) - I challenge you to describe something that kind of - sort of looks like an object you are familiar with, but which defies any tangible description. You saying that *Voyager* has "bad writing" because they use the words "some kind of" all the time merely means that the anomalies they have encountered defy description. (It's white and it's fluffy, but I don't think it's a cat!) It could be a duck, puppy, a fur coat!) In fact, I used to get annoyed when Picard would snap "That doesn't tell me anything!" at LaForge and Data for not being able to better describe what was happening to them.

To Vered Gilad (p31) re Cardassian populace not knowing what their military does. I saw recently on a documentary that the US government had done experiments on general citizens that in many cases caused violent and painful deaths. I can't remember all the details, but the point is, these experiments were conducted as early as the 30's, continuing as late as the 60's and 70's, and the truth is only now being uncovered. You still think that the average Joe would know everything that the military does? (The above example is not to point fingers only at the US; it's the first example that came to mind!)

• Dave Styles - Asford, Kent

To Jean Perrin - Re Tuvok. I must disagree entirely with you. To me Tuvok is THE archetypal Vulcan. I would suggest to any Vulcanologists (good word eh, I just made it up :-)) that they watch two or three *Voyager* episodes and then two or three Classic Trek episodes. Having been watching Classic Trek on the BBC every Sunday morning, I am amazed by how un-Vulcan Spock appears compared to Tuvok. It seems to me that over the years through fan fiction a perception of Vulcans has come about that simply is not borne out by the Vulcans we see on the telly. To back up this brave statement I recommend a really good article

in the last NL by Sue Bursztynski, who has made a very good study of the TV Vulcans.

Oh I nearly forgot; Tuvok has done the nerve-pinch and the mind meld both at least twice.

To Alan Stephen - I must apologize to you, and to the membership at large, for the tone of my correspondence lately; you are right, any humour has been lacking from my letters to the postbag lately. The reason for this I went into in an article in the last NL. I'm glad you re-joined. What can we bicker about now? :-)

To Neil Safi - Fifteen pounds for a mousepad !?!? I'm afraid you've fallen victim to one of my nominations for "Rip Off of the Month"; Star Trek mousepads were being sold for a fiver at PC World in Chatham recently. My other nomination this time has to be the latest box-of-all-the-Trek-films. Will anyone really pay seventy quid for six films they've already got and one they haven't but is for sale on the same shelf for over fifty quid cheaper?

And finally - Following on from Harlan Ellison's diatribe, I have heard that Malcolm McDowell is the latest Trek actor to jump on the "get a life" bandwagon, having received death threats after his character Soren killed off Kirk. I don't blame him, and I'll quite happily stand with the "sensible" Trekkers on this one. Come on, death threats over Trek: This saddens me.

• **Neil Safi, Kaferian Apple Club**

To Eagle Mirror - The colour of a Tribble is in no way decided by its genes, but in fact by the diet of the parent Tribble. Tribbles fed on Quadrottricale are therefore different shades of beige and brown. I must therefore assume that the white and grey Tribbles to which you refer, must have been the offspring of a group who found the remains of Captain Kirk's leftover pilchard sandwich.

Can anyone tell me how the carpets on the Enterprise D are kept so clean. What with all those dangerous away teams, Riker must leave a lot of hard-to-get-rid-of stubborn stains behind him (mud, dust,

blood, Denebian slime etc) on those gorgeous highly coloured floor coverings. Is there a hidden team of cleaners on board or is everyone made to clean up after themselves - "Come on Mr Worf, you made that mess now clear it up!"

Anyone who's on the Net and has nothing better to do, might like to check out the Kaferian Apple Club Web Page. It's full of fruity fun and you can even see what Mike Sadler looks like in tights! It should be on-line by the time you read this.
<http://www.wlv.ac.uk/~in4587/kac/>

• **Ruth Borgars - Ware**

To Sheila Clark & Bill McClure - I don't see DS9 as overly 'pessimistic' (maybe I'm just more cynical); I enjoy it for the characters and the usually good, occasionally excellent, teleplays. If people don't enjoy DS9 or some post-Roddenberry developments, then that's obviously a matter of taste or perhaps personal philosophy; but when people talk about 'betrayal' and 'corrupting Gene's vision' as though ST were some sort of religion, it disturbs me. Firstly, and I write as a CT fan first and foremost, I don't believe the world portrayed therein *is* ideal. In particular, the attitude to women is immature at best, downright offensive at worst. Now I know that in the 1960s the very presence of female crew on a starship, and Uhura's on the bridge, was very forward thinking. I bear that in mind. But I don't think TNG, made 20 years later and a world away as far as women's rights and expectations were concerned, represented any real advance, not until more recently, in the US/Western humanist Captain Kirk worldview. The ability to question oneself as well as others is surely a sign of maturity. Look at Duet, for example and compare it with The Apple. Nor do I accept that these faults are down entirely to the short-sightedness of network suits or advertisers.

Secondly, I believe the strength of ST in all its forms is that it has something to offer everyone. To seek to confine it to a rigid formula, in some cases an idealised version we may have wished it to be, can only harm it. I'll come straight out and say I watch ST primarily for entertainment, though I

appreciate its thoughtful side. I take on board what Jackie Comben says in her letter, and I know that there are those who think ST has 'something to say'. I'd merely say that if the show wants to continue to address today's issues in a sci-fi format, it'd better be sure they *are* today's issues and not those of thirty years ago.

To Christopher Howell and Michael Hill - Top 5 DS9s: Duet, Family Business, Civil Defence, Blood Oath, Crossover - no particular order. And of course House of Quark, Improbable Cause, The Nagus... Top 10, anyone?

To Dave Styles (article, P 58 N/L 44) - Yes, it is overstating the case, I hope.

• T'Mara (and the Prosbear) - Austria

It's apparently my destiny to write in defence of Tuvok! Last time my bear felt insulted by Neil Barrett's view of the Vulcan, now I have to defend him again!

To Jean Perrin (P21) - It's obvious you have not seen enough episodes of Voyager to make any judgement at all about Tuvok. He shows most of the Vulcan attitudes you miss about him. Not only does he perform a mind meld (Ex Post Facto) but also a nerve pinch (albeit not on screen, and under alien influence - Cathexis). He also values logic very highly and discusses the Vulcan way of life with Chakotay (State of Flux). You certainly can't blame him for not talking about pon farr (not even Spock had talked about it with Kirk before it happened!) and since he still has about 2 - 3 years till his next pon farr, there certainly is no need of mentioning it now (Ex Post Facto again; he has been married for 67 years, which means his last pon farr took place 4 years ago! Tim Russ agrees with me on that, I asked him about it on Seatrek '95 last June). As to the Vulcan salute or the greeting "Live long and prosper", there are not that many situations where these are appropriate (how often did Spock use them?). Neelix did serve him plomeek soup (although it was a la Neelix - Faces). Even the inner eyelid comes in somehow; the early stages of Cathexis contained a scene where Tuvok is blinded by a light beam. Tim Russ apparently refused to

do that scene, because the inner eyelid would prevent Tuvok from being blinded.

To Helen Cakebread (-P 46) - No, I don't think that people are dropping out of IDIC because there are not enough pictures. As the editors explained, only b/w pictures would be possible and only in rather low quality. Anybody who joins IDIC should be aware of that. Those who look for pictures of their favourite actors should subscribe to Star Trek Monthly or maybe TV Zone or Starburst, or buy the official magazines for TNG, DS9 and Voyager (alas, not for Classic Trek, too!) which usually contain great pictures in a quality far superior to anything any amateur publication could ever provide. IDIC is a club for active people, for those who want to share their opinion with others, to ask questions, to find solutions one might not find alone (like R J Robinson's excellent remark last N/L that the very existence of the principle of IDIC would indicate that there is a diverse population on Vulcan, thus explaining black Vulcans. I never thought of it myself, but it makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?) I can't imagine why any active fan would want to drop out, except for the fact that their favourite series (TOS or TNG) now that there are no new episodes (with the exception of an occasional movie) does not get enough coverage any more.

[Sheila - Sorry about shifting Vienna into Germany in the last n/l! I don't know what I was thinking about!]

• Sandra Necchi - Brooklyn, NY

I've been subscribing to your terrific zine for about a year now, but this is the first time I'm sending in a letter. I'm writing to respond to a couple of items that struck me last issue. I refer to your excerpt of Ron Moore's comments regarding "the new Kira" and recent comments in general about DS9.

Firstly, I don't know where you folks have heard the rumours about DS9 being cancelled, but it just ain't so! To the best of my knowledge there have been no such rumours here in the U.S. Secondly, I wanted to correct the popular fallacy that DS9 had poor ratings. Not even Berman et al said this. Throughout the second season, DS9 was consistently rated the No. 1 syndicated

drama, beating out the vile Baywatch, which is an international powerhouse. Only toward the end of the second season did it fall a notch or two behind Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. But it's always been in the top 10, and often in the top 5. The reason for Berman's consternation over DS9 was that it never had the *same* ratings as TNG, hence the Defiant last season and this season's controversial changes. But comparisons between the two shows' ratings are inappropriate. TNG aired at a time when the syndicated market was very small. It had precious little competition. It easily won out over cheaper, less widely distributed programmes. By the time DS9 was first aired, that was no longer true. Today, many syndicated programmes even compete equally with regular, prime-time series. DS9's competition is fierce. Given that reality, DS9 actually performed *better* than TNG. Berman is right when he says many TNG fans aren't watching but his attempts to attract that white, young, male demographic are ruining the show. The 'new DS9' has caused some controversy among its fans, at least here in the U.S. (The show already lost some fans due to last season's addition of the Defiant and the death of Vedek Bareil.) Berman has failed to attract the viewers he wants in large numbers, and he's losing some of DS9's faithful fans. DS9 was never meant to be about external action/adventures and space battles. It's a much more internally-directed show. Many of DS9's fans aren't interested in the Klingon testosterone fest, and feel that Worf just doesn't belong. (I'm a Classic fan and I've never taken the Berman/Piller Klingons seriously.) Many have stopped watching.

As to Ron Moore's defence of what's been done to Kira, it doesn't surprise me at all that he doesn't understand this 'babe-ified Kira thing'. After all, this is a writer who's littered the Trek universe with macho Klingons, constant war, terrorists, ad infinitum. The fact is, Nana Visitor has been complaining about how her character looks this season. Moore mentions her costume but omits her absurd heels, the biggest point of contention. But then again, this is one of the guys responsible for 7 years of Deanna Troi and Beverly Crusher, who defined women as

"wearing nail polish and make-up". Due to its era, I expect little from Classic Trek regarding representations of women. (Even so, TOS showed more political courage on race and gender issues than TNG ever did.) I do, however, expect a good deal from writers working in the 1980s and 90s. These guys are so terrified of having Kira appear too butch that they've now made her into a bimbo. Not that DS9 hasn't given us good episodes this season - it has. But it's also given us some really awful scripts - Sword of Kahless and Crossfire in particular. And some of the characters have been badly marginalised. Almost from the start, the producers and writers have tried to mess around with DS9 to make it more macho. Last season we got the idiotic Defiant (which I just wish they'd blown up already) and the Dominion, which up till now has been just a dull strawman. This season we get the brainless Klingons. They even ruined the one intelligent, noble Klingon - Gowron, who's unrecognisable in Way of the Warrior.

I'm afraid of what more they're going to do to the darker, 'middle child' of the Trek universe.

By the way, Siddig el Fadil changed his name almost on a whim. He explained that one night he was having dinner with some old friends, and apparently some of them still couldn't say his name right. So he thought that if *they* couldn't get it right, then he should probably change it. He also said that 'Alexander' was the name his British mother wanted to give him (his Sudanese father prevailed over her wishes, however). I myself wish he hadn't changed it, but he has professional considerations and Hollywood is unforgiving towards 'difficult' names. This goes double for Arab names, as the climate in this country towards Arabs is full of unbridled bigotry.

As to Harlan Ellison's remarks, I think a lot of what he says is valid. He's one of my favourite SF writers and while I do disagree with him on various issues, I think he's usually pretty close to the truth. I especially appreciate his attempts to educate American SF fans about non-American literature and art that's either SF/fantasy or related to it.

Unfortunately, he seems to be right about a lot of Trek fans. But I don't agree that we should all be labelled that way. There are distinctions among us. Not all of us fall into the 'geek' category. Some of us can discriminate, do have lives outside of fandom, and are able to see Trek with some perspective.

Oh, and add my name to the growing list of B5 fans. Leonard Nimoy said recently that he doesn't see very much of interest or exciting going on in the Trek universe right now. With some exceptions on Voyager and DS9, I think he's right. (Does anyone take the Kazon seriously?) For me, B5 has a stronger, tighter overall plot and gives me what Berman/Filler took away from Trek - the 'sense of wonder' and mystery of 'out there'. As for characters, though, I think Trek still is better (excluding TNG).

I just wanted to let the editors know that yours is easily one of the best Trek news/letterzines in fandom today. Its size and variety of content is ideal. You folks do a very fine job. I think U.S. fans are missing out on a really fun zine.

• **Russell Witheyman - Crawley**

Thank you to everyone who has written to the Postbag with positive letters about DS9. We seem to be in a minority for some reason. Personally, I think the show has gone from strength to strength; OK so it was a bit naff when it first started, but then so was TNG; but the latest fourth season looks to be the best yet, with excellent episodes like Way of the Warrior and the totally brilliant The Visitor, the latter episode being in my opinion one of the best Treks of any series. To all the people who gave up on DS9, I urge you to start watching the later episodes. It does get better. I think it's even better than Voyager, although Voy is still in its early days. It's going through the same story trouble that TNG and DS9 did when they started, although the second season of Voy from what I've seen is a vast improvement. to the first. Let's hope this continues.

Also I must just say that although I do share people's sentiments about Gene's vision being eradicated, I do feel that it is

sometimes still there. I think Gene would've liked DS9's The Visitor and Rejoined, and Voyager's Emanations and Tattoo. Do other members think that it's still there?

• **Olga - Madrid**

Greetings! I really wish you wouldn't quarrel so much. Is it really important which ST we like as long as we all love the idea? I think that is the vital thing, that we are united by a good and optimistic (most of the time) idea that gives us a push when things are bad and a good excuse to talk and get to know each other, in addition to a good laugh now and then. I completely agree with your article, Dave Styles. Of course I like some things more than others, who doesn't? But I like every kind of science fiction, ST or not, although ST (all of it) is special.

To Dave Styles - I went to the ST Exhibition in the London Science Museum. Just a coincidence, really, as I was spending a week there. I loved it. It certainly was no disappointment to me. But please remember that such an exhibition is unthinkable in Spain, so I loved every second I was there. Perhaps it was not so great for you.

To Ann Verschuere - I don't know if it is a good idea to have a special IDIC about CT. I also like CT very much, it's the first one I saw and the only one I've seen entirely, but I also enjoy reading about the rest of the series. This way I have the opportunity of keeping in touch, knowing interesting things and following great (and deep!) discussions. The problem is that sometimes I get lost in the big amount of names, but with a little investigation I can discover where they came from. What I mean is, the magazine should be kept as open as possible. But don't worry. I'm warming up and will try to write some article one of these days.

To Eagle Mirror - Interesting problem that one about genetics (even though I had to look 'guppies' up in a dictionary). Perhaps the white small tribbles are not pups but only vertically disadvantaged. I should know it, because I myself turn white when someone reminds me that I am, too! :-). The ones with various colours simply don't mind. No, seriously, the feeling I get about them is that

they are more like cats; perhaps that's because I love cats and I quite like tribbles too (I apologise to any member of the Klingon race who may be reading this). And you're right, we could use more laughs in IDIC, but everyone knows that ST fans are weird and childish people with no interest in serious things :-)

• Lesley Moyes - Glenrothes

I have heard some disturbing news about the new movie, even worse than the Borg; Emma Thompson may be playing Picard's girl - so does this mean that instead of a space battle the Federation and the Borg are going to rough it out over Earl Grey and scones in true luvvie style (I hope not!) and maybe the new Enterprise will be a carriage with horses! :-)

Back to some serious stuff. Total SPOILER ALERT. I hear the Dominion have had it on DS9 and that a new mega powerful race is set to make its presence known for season 4's finale; they were originally to appear in the now fully confirmed 5th season, but the producers thought they were so brill that they are set to give us butterflies and chills this season. This new race's first victims are the Dominion!! Apparently they are unseen until eventually shot. They will have personal cloaking devices and possibly ships that fire when cloaked. They are set to look matte black, similar in style to the bounty hunter disguise Princess Leia used to rescue Han Solo in Return of the Jedi. So there you go; at the moment they are nameless, but I reckon we'll be getting hints about them before the finale; so I think the Klingon threat may be swept under the carpet when this lot arrive.

By the way, I thought Way of the Warrior was brill; I think season 4 may be DS9's best ever!

Season 2 Voyager episodes have been quite good, but sadly I reckon the Q episode looks like being the best episode ever because it's a crossover. Threshold, however, sounds well out of it.

• Alan Scobbie - Grangemouth

Why is everyone so opposed to change?

The new spin on the Star Trek universe is a more realistic and dramatic view of the future. I am of course referring to the sweeping changes that DS9 has brought in seasons three and four.

Personally, I hope that the Federation falls in the next few years, whether at the hands of the Dominion, the Borg, this new mega race from the Gamma Quadrant or even Starfleet itself. After all, there has been peace for two hundred years.

As usual, people will cry B5 rip-off. DS9 and B5 are two totally different shows. As for the fuss over Bareil's death, he is dead and nothing can change this!

What is Starfleet playing at? If I was in charge, I think I'd construct a fleet of warships and assign them to the Bajoran sector!

I hope that in future episodes the Jem'hadar culture will be explored. I find this race fascinating, far more interesting than the Klingons that TNG overdosed us on.

• Jill Searle - Shrewsbury

I've just seen Gambit for the first time, and although I confess to starting to snore at the latest TNG offerings, this one made me wake up fast! It wasn't my preferred type of SF story, but Data in command - WOW! Now I wish I hadn't erased the first half! Maybe we should have *yet another* spin-off with Data (sans chip!!!) as Captain!

To Vered Gilad (P 31) - I was very careful *not* to say that DS9 is dross (which is not my view) but that it doesn't fit *my* perception of ST. Of course I accept that other fans disagree with me - but that's IDIC after all. What really depresses me is how few seem to agree with me!

To Gary James Fogg (P32) - Your letter made me laugh, but consider this - football fans parade round the streets wearing scarves and (sometimes) full kit chanting Chel-se-ea and suchlike, yet this is considered perfectly normal and acceptable behaviour. They also collect cards, posters and other merchandise.

When I first encountered other Trekkers at the premiere of ST:TMP I was stunned. Among the majority of normally dressed fans were some actually wearing uniforms or costumes from episodes. *What nutters*, I thought. Yet as I got to know people and attended conventions I realised that they weren't trying to pretend they were the characters but were just having fun. While I still haven't worn a uniform I would strongly defend those who do, or those who change their names or immerse themselves in the Klingon language. Personally I think fandom would be pretty dull without them. Look beyond the costumes and you'll find that the people within (so to speak) are just as sane as any football fan (or mountaineering enthusiast!)

To anyone - as a rail enthusiast I think the term 'anorak' is most unjust!

To John Stubbley (P57) - You say a number of fans are bewildered as to why people like me are considering leaving fandom. Well, if newsletters are (though no fault of anyone's!) full of comments and information about matters which don't interest you and cons are showing videos, selling merchandise and generally concerning programmes which don't interest you and the majority of fans seem interested in same, then the whole point of being in fandom begins to escape you. I've hung on for two reasons, 1) that Janet Quarton is the reason I found fandom in the first place and so long as she and her fellow editors remain in 'command' of IDIC I feel a certain loyalty and 2) the simple desire not to lose touch with something that used to be a far bigger part of my life.

To Gloria Fry and other CT fans, I'm glad you're still out there!

• Jay Stevensen - Essex

To Sue Bursztynski (P51) - Loved the article! The final nail in the coffin for anyone who *still* thinks Vulcans have no emotions. But it's the first time I've heard the suggestion that Spock might have been considering You Know What with Christine Chapel in Amok Time - though that remark about "Your face is wet" *did* sound rather tender.

To Bill McClure (P27/8) - Ouch! What did I say to make you think I didn't like Babylon 5? Checking back, it must have been my comment about the pilot? Well, I stand by it - it was nowhere near as good as the excellent episodes that followed (yes, I've seen most of them).

With reference to Gene Roddenberry and Star Trek merchandise - Leonard Nimoy (quoted in Star Trek Memories) states that Gene R was quite open about his commercial reasons for producing the IDIC medallion. Why do fans often react in horror at the idea of Gene wanting to "make money out of Trek"? He had bills to pay like everyone else. If anyone deserved to profit from Trek and any spin-offs, it was Gene - and the actors. As Janet commented, there wasn't much (any?) merchandise available at the time, so GR was doing fans (and himself) a favour.

To Helen White (P29) - Glad to hear that you're feeling better. Depression is terrible... I've been there.

To Helen Cakebread (P46) - I can't agree that there are too many letters in IDIC. They're fun, and distinguish IDIC as a *fan* club. Let's keep IDIC full of opinions and friendly discussions. There are plenty of pictures available in the commercial magazines.

To Julie Evans (P60) - Nice one!

To Anne-Marie Flowers (P43) - I can't agree that there's any similarity between vanity publishing and fanzines. Vanity publishing involves *paying* to have your work printed - and if you're not careful, being ripped off in the process. Vanity publishers will print anything legal, even if it's terrible. Fanzine editors can (and do) refuse stories they think aren't suitable or up to standard, and I've never heard of any who accept money from writers. The only disappointment you're likely to get from a fanzine is that some of the smaller ones go 'out of business' before they've actually published your work. *[Sheila - Actually, some fanzines could be called vanity publishing. There have been some fan writers (mostly in America) who apparently couldn't*

get any fan editor to accept their work so decided to put it out themselves. These zines have usually run to one issue only and the unwary buyer learned very quickly just why no other editor would accept the stories. Word of mouth unrecommendation quickly stopped others buying, the writer/publisher found that she was left with an expensive pile of unsold (and unsellable) zines and - probably without understand why her deathless prose didn't sell - abandoned the zine market. That doesn't mean that all editors putting out their own work come into that category, of course, but the responsible ones get someone else to edit their work before publication.]

To Margaret Richardson (P51) - You mean you were *really* concentrating on how well they handled the subject matter when you watched Patterns of Force at the LN Con?

• Rhiannon - USS Invention

I've finally seen some Voyager episodes (4) and I have to say I love it. I even got used to Janeway's somewhat weird voice (and to anyone who'd like to hear it, I like her hairdo. There's just one thing I'd like to ask. What is it about Chakotay and his belief and all that? Could someone please explain what you are talking about? Thanks. [Sheila - Later in the season there's an episode where Chakotay helps Janeway find her 'spirit guide'. You'll come to it!])

I've also had the chance to see some of seasons 1 & 2 of DS9 and I can't wait to see more of it. But of course, just when they started showing season 2 over here, our satellite dish went haywire! The Search was great, and what a surprise about the Dominion! (I guess we can expect some more Changeling stories now?) House of Quark really made me laugh, and it had some nice Klingons in it.

Talking about Klingons, does anyone remember what Worf said about Klingon music? Then look at the Klingon bard on DS9 - does his music fit Worf's description? I don't think so.

To Baerbel Schmidt - Well, there's at least one more person who will probably go and

see ST:VIII even if Michael Jackson should appear in it. I too think he would not make a bad actor. (It will just be a small part, so all the Jackson-haters could just close their eyes for that minute or two!)

I understand if Sid has changed his name because hearing it mispronounced got on his nerves! :-) By the way - I'm not trying to hide who I am, either, I just don't like my name being mis-spelled, and Rhiannon is a nice name too. I am not proud of being German, but I am not ashamed of it either; I just happened to be born in this part of the continent, that's all.

I will be going to the 30th Anniversary Convention in Berlin this September. I am really looking forward to it; Majel Barrett will be there. Actually, I don't quite know what to expect as this will be my first convention, but it had better be good because it cost me a small fortune! (uncountable hours of baby-sitting and tutoring!) Is anyone else going there?

Some days ago I heard that Star Trekkin' song on BFBS. Definitely not one of the best songs I've heard so far... (ain't that a polite way to say I think it's complete crap??!)

• Edward Woo - The Mechanic

To Sheila Clark - You are right saying that the hopes of a better future for the Bajorans seem to be dashed with the opening up of the wormhole. Instead of bringing trade, alien cultures and new civilisations, it has brought the Dominion and war to Bajoran space. Peaceful space should be brought back into the DS9 stories, otherwise there will be no hope in the Alpha and Delta Quadrants.

As to the Founders, their hostility towards the solids is based upon past encounters. However, surely not all solids want to kill every Changeling - for example, Odo has survived amongst solids - why can't the Founders see that?

To Jean Perrin - I agree that Alexander should have accompanied Worf to DS9. His grandparents said he needed a father's hand when he came to the Enterprise. Has Worf

left his son to his grandparents again?

As to Sisko saying "old man" to Dax - I like that; it brings friendship and history together. Everyone else calls her Jadzia or Dax.

To Gul Melsel - Replacing Sisko is a bad idea as he has built up an understanding with the Cardassians that Starfleet would not want to lose. The Bajorans would see the losing of the Emissary as a bad omen, which could affect Bajor's future. Sisko helped to stop the Maquis and has kept the Provisional Government in power despite the Circle's efforts.

To Kathleen Glancy - I think Gene would approve of Captain Janeway. When the next ST series after Voyager begins, I think they should have an alien female Captain - important to reinforce the fact that Starfleet is an amalgamation of planets and alien cultures, not just Human.

To Helen White - Welcome back! I agree with you that Data obtaining emotions in Generations should not have been so easily done. As to Dr Bev being thrown in the ocean, I have to disagree - there was no real point to it and no follow-up.

To Ann Verschuere - I think a separate CT section would be a good idea, possibly with previous articles reprinted; this would improve support for CT. I was brought up on CT and have to say that with the current showing of CT on BBC, I get up specially for it. I wouldn't be so eager for TNG or DS9.

To Glen Parsons - Living in Cornwall makes travelling to cons difficult. The current two committees with momentum are Contagion and Wolf 359. If travelling is a problem, there are a few cons coming up in Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham you could try.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - I was expecting Little Green Men to be serious about the Roswell Incident, but most people thought it was very funny. It probably was, but was I taking the implications of aliens too scientifically, and not just a laugh?

To David J Raper - Surely the Federation/Klingon alliance has benefited both sides and kept the Romulans at bay? Remember, it was the Klingons who wanted peace (STVI) but 70 years have passed and now the Klingon High Command is ready to go on its own again. Spock should say something about the situation, as he formulated the peace. A twist would be if the Romulans rejoined their Vulcan brothers, causing a possible Romulan/Federation alliance, isolating the Klingons.

• Annikke Bissinger - Germany

To Jean Perrin (P21) - Re Nog and entrance exams - in various episodes Nog is struggling very hard with his entrance examinations for Starfleet Academy, and he seems to be very talented in technical matters.

To R J Robinson - 'The Maquis' - the woman who wanted to buy weapons from Quark was presumably a Vulcan (at least, I can see no point in the Romulans having an interest in helping the Maquis).

To Adam J North/Michael Hill - I also like STV:TFF very much. Although there are a lot of holes in the plot and I didn't care much for those God scenes, what I just love about that movie are those 'family' scenes. They give an atmosphere much like the original series, except that everyone seems to be much closer now, after serving with each other for almost 25 years. One of my favourite bits is the camp fire scene at the beginning.

To David Raper re the emergency medical hologram (or, in short, the Doctor) - I just love him, he's right in line with Bones and Kate Pulaski (I only wish he'd get a name soon). I especially like the friendship he developed with Kes. Sometimes I think he sees something like a daughter in her (even if he was 'married' to her in Projections).

To Glen Parsons - I would certainly recommend Contagion as a first time event. The organisation is fantastic, the programme has a wide range of variety and you can see all the latest episodes you want. Although there are about 1000 attendees, the con never

loses the 'family feeling' which I could never find in those professional cons. They usually have a first timers' meeting on the first day, so that you can get to know people; there are a wide variety of other activities (fancy dress, writing competition, not to mention the traditional ceilidh, etc); and of course there is enough time/room/'whatever to chat.

To Judith Taylor - I too like Peter David's wicked sense of humour and especially the in jokes. He really manages to tie various facts, established on TV or in one of his books, together in one book. This task was also accomplished very well by Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens in Federation. I especially liked the appearance of Micah Brack - whom I strongly suspect of being Mr Flint from Requiem for Methuselah.

The thing I really love in IDIC, and that makes it such a unique newsletter to me, is the vast Postbag. I've never encountered such a great field for Trek-related discussions in any other club!

Re Leonard Nimoy's new book - In a German newspaper I found the following: "London - quietly madness arrives... Mr Spock aka Leonard Nimoy has to go to the psychiatrist. Nimoy has a slight problem: every day he has a talk with Mr Spock, who confides 'space secrets' which he is not allowed to tell anyone else. The TV star with the pointed ears says, 'Spock gets angry if I speak about it'. This doesn't need a comment, does it? Why do they need to print this sort of crap?"

To everybody who commented about TOS - There are still fans of TOS put there, or people like me who love not only one single series but all of them. I think it is only natural that most of the discussion themes in IDIC are about the 'newest' aspects of Trek, but please don't drop out because of that. TOS is not forgotten, and I hope it never will be. What about writing an article on a TOS theme you're interested in, or starting a discussion about it? I think there are plenty of people who would respond.

• Christopher Howell - Coventry

In WOTWarrior Sisko says to Gowron -

'This is what the Founders want, Cardassian against Klingon, Klingon against Federation.' I'm not sure why, but this line reminded me of the way people are slagging off the various versions of Trek against each other. Perhaps the Founders are everywhere after all! I demand blood tests on all IDIC members immediately-)

Seriously, out of the four Treks, DS9 is my favourite, but I would be happy watching any other version because Star Trek = Good Entertainment/Storytelling. However, if Trek is to continue for another 30 years, then it will only succeed by re-inventing itself or doing something original along the way, otherwise it would get very boring and stale. I mean, does anyone *really* want recycled versions of CT or TNG under a different name in the future, with recycled characters and recycled stories?

To Jean Perrin - regarding Nog, he took, and passed, his entrance exam in 'Facets'.

To Edward Woo - 'Modern day' Trek has attracted fans due to its fancy hardware and SFX, but it's also attracted fans with great stories such as Inner Light, Measure of a Man, Duet etc which don't use any SFX apart from the titles! I agree with you however, about ST:Generations - a missed opportunity!

To T'Mara - The Founders are hell-bent on taking over the Alpha Quadrant. They see all solids as a threat, and would (and have) kill thousands of monoforms, plus start the odd war or two, to achieve their aims. I'm not sure if the Vulcan way would be appropriate at this time. As General Martok says to Sisko in WOTWarrior - 'What would you have us do instead - stand by and allow the Dominion to take over the Alpha Quadrant?' I would appreciate a reply on exactly what the Vulcans could do in this time of crisis.

To Baerbel Schmidt - regarding the rumour about Keiko, that's all it is, a rumour. According to the producers, she returns with Molly later in the 4th season.

To Kathleen Garcy and Vered Gilad - I think the Defiant would have, *must have*, Comprehensive Insurance, assuming

someone could afford the premiums! So far, she's: been nicked (*Defiant*); damaged (*The Search*); lost passengers (*Past Tense*); bumped into and written off several Jem'Hadar vessels (*The Die is Cast*); been sabotaged three times (*The Die is Cast*, *Destiny*, *The Adversary*); and recently was assigned to Armed Breakdown Service Duty! (*WOTWarrior*). At this rate, it would take Starfleet another 30 years just to finish paying Lloyd's of Ferengi the deposit, and as for DS9 itself, after recent events Sisko would be lucky to find anyone who *would insure* the premises!:-)

To Marget Connor and Alan Stephen - Considering that Viacom have spent money on two new *Defiant* sets, one extra cast member, new titles, an expensive season opener and a promotion campaign, I would have thought that they would want to get more out of DS9 than just another 26 episodes. If there's to be no 5th season, then why are they blowing all this money on the 4th?

• **Elaine McCue - Glasgow**

This year I celebrate fifteen years since my first Star Trek convention, and I have to admit for the most part I have really enjoyed being involved in fandom. I've seen some really good guests at cons, met many new people and made new friends, all in all had a pretty good time.

When you reach any big anniversary you tend to look back at how things used to be. We've so much more Star Trek now to choose from, whereas fifteen years all we had was what the BBC graced us with on TV or whatever episodes were brought along to the con on 8mm film normally by Janet. Fandom now should be better off. However I don't think it is.

There are certainly many more people involved than there were all those years ago, but I've recently noticed an increase in problems caused by the attitude of a small but vocal minority.

These people seem to exhibit a 'me me me, don't give a stuff' attitude towards other people. They seem to delight in moaning about other groups of fans or series in the

Star Trek universe. You've got TOS fans moaning about TNG, DS9 fans complaining about Voyager and vice versa and so it goes on. They go on about one series not having the right to do this or another series not having the right to do that. I get really fed up listening to that sort of stuff. I think these people need to learn how to embrace the spirit of IDIC. I even heard of someone referring to the TOS as "Shite Trek". With comments like that you can see how bad things are getting. I am a Star Trek fan not a TNG fan or a DS9 fan but a fan of all to a certain extent. So let's all appreciate others' right to enjoy whatever aspects of Trek they see fit.

To be honest if things continue down the road they're going, I doubt I'll wish to stay part of fandom for another fifteen years. Let's hope things get better.

Generations, DS9 and Voyager

I have been very interested to read the various comments over the past few newsletters on these subjects. Although I think *Generations* was a good film, I think it could have been a lot better. My overriding memory of it, after having seen it several times, I just felt totally depressed. Depressed about the death of a hero, the death of a character's family, the death of a character's personality and the death of a ship. Somehow finding Data's cat still alive didn't quite make up for all this. I don't think I've felt so negative about any other Star Trek film. Let's hope *Generations 2* is a bit more cheerful.

DS9

Whilst I will always have difficulties in accepting this as Trek I have to admit I've probably enjoyed more episodes in this season than any other. There seems to be less Bajoran religious mumbo jumbo. That stuff really irritates me. I do think that until the most recent episodes they were not sure what to do with Worf. Apart from "Way Of The Warrior" he seemed to play very little part in the first few episodes apart from "The Sword Of Kahless" which frankly bored me rigid. "The Sons Of Mogh" was much better. However I sometimes think the series does not know what it wants to be. At times I feel that it is trying to emulate *Babylon 5* and

normally failing miserably. Perhaps it should just learn to be itself.

Voyager

I really do for the most part really enjoy Voyager and had no difficulty in accepting it as Trek. It sometimes sticks too closely to the tried and tested Trek format which can make it very like previous series. However they seem to be bringing a bit of conflict and intrigue in to it in the past few episodes, particularly between Chakotay and Paris, which is making things much more interesting.

• Helen White - Blewbury

Irrelevant comment (you *have* to keep some of these in; the n/l would be very boring indeed if it was 100 % Trek. 99% will do!) - Spare a moment for a sad and pathetic person who's just had a wisdom tooth taken out, whimper.

To Jean Perrin (p21) - re Tuvok not being a 'proper' Vulcan. Since the last n/l some mean and cruel people have lent me the entire set of Voyager videos, so I am now hooked. One thing I particularly noticed was how convincing I found Tuvok (and I had been all ready to be disappointed in him owing to various comments in the postbag). You're right, there's been no melding or pinching yet, but that's the fault of the script writers. Have you seen the episode where he has to train four Maquis chaps to behave in rather more of a Starfleet fashion (sorry, can't remember the title)? He's very Vulcan in that. Interestingly, Sam (one of my pals, and who doesn't watch original Trek so's never seen a proper Vulcan, ahem) can't stand him because he's "an arrogant g*t", which tends to be one Terran initial reaction to Vulcans! She hates the way that he doesn't get annoyed and always has a 'smart' answer to anything, which is of course why I like him. So I would say, keep watching the videos! Oh, and I realised why Tuvok's hairstyle looks odd to me; he doesn't have a fringe (that's bangs, if you're American - and why 'bangs', for heaven's sake!?) and all the other Vulcans that we've seen so far do.

To Antony Freelove - (P23) - re snide remarks etc. in the Postbag. Oh, how I agree

with you! I didn't comment in my last letter because when you're depressed you become very cynical, so I thought it might have been just me (unless you're depressed too, which I hope you aren't). The Postbag in the 'old days' was a huge discussion forum, in which arguments happened but generally in a good-natured way. Can't we ban the printing of "(fill in name) is so boring", when no argument is offered as to why this should be? It's quite different if someone says, for example, "Original Trek is stupid because of the bad scenery", or "DS9 is stupid because it's on a space station", because that then opens the way for a discussion, which is what the Postbag should be about.

To fans of Babylon 5 - seeing as we get referred to as 'Trekkies', how come you don't get referred to as 'Babies'? (Just kidding... :-))

To Dave Styles - rip off of the week this time is that appallingly awful plastic 'make your computer into a Star Trek computer' screen surround. I would guess that £1.50 of the cost, if that, is for the materials involved in making it, and the rest is the licence fee. What a ghastly piece of hideous tat.

To anyone who speaks 'computer' - I found a highly amusing argument the other day as to why Spock was better than Data, which was:

Instructing Spock to 'Format c:' would have no effect....

To Eagle Mirror - re Tribble genetics - some Terran species have babies that start out a very different colour from the adults, or have no markings, e.g. Siamese cats and Dalmatians are born white, a lot of grey breeds of dog start out black, etc. Besides that, Tribbles are a non-Terran species so might have totally bizarre genetic codes. Their colour could be affected by what they eat, e.g. eat strawberry ice-cream and turn pink - this could be a kind of primitive chameloid tendency. However this might not work with, say, tutti-frutti ice cream, or vegetable soup....

• Meg Lahey - Ulysses, Kansas

To Sheila Clark - I'm sorry to hear that

you are disenchanted with DS9. While I do not share your outlook on DS9, I can understand your reasoning. I've had my problems with the plot twists on DS9 also, but on the whole I find DS9 to be very uplifting. There is no denying that there is some tension between the multi-species residents on the station and that the political situation is volatile. Overall, though, I feel that for all of the adverse things thrown at the crew of DS9, things will work out in the end.

I'm wondering, though, if you think Voyager is any less pessimistic than DS9? Of the two current Trek shows, I find DS9 much more hopeful about the future than Voyager. In comparison to DS9, Voyager is manned with a crew that is hostile toward each other and they've yet to meet an alien in the Delta Quadrant, except for Neelix and his people, who weren't portrayed as unfriendly and/or dangerous. I feel that DS9's story themes about overcoming strife, healing and redemption is truer to the spirit of my view of the Trek Universe, than Voyager's hostile, paranoid one. Hopefully, things will get better on Voyager, but for now I find what I've seen of the show to be very depressing.

To Bill McClure - Your description of Harlan Ellison sounds very close to my mother's description of Rush Limbaugh <evil grin>.

For those who have never heard of Rush, he's an ultraconservative talk show host in the US. Personally, I've never taken what Mr. Ellison has to say all that seriously. IMHO, Ellison is *way* too close to Trek to be an objective observer. Not only has he been "burned" by Corporate Paramount, he had a major disagreement with Gene Roddenberry over the script of "Guardian ..." which seems to have led to a life long feud. What really bothered me about this article, though, was that he went out of his way to pick extreme cases of Trek mania and ignored everything else to make his point. While I've actually met people who've done things that Ellison mentioned, they are definitively a minority with Trekkdom. I feel that he, like a good lot of the media, has a need to find the most *eccentric* people in a group and ignore the rest.

In the end, I feel like Ellison is a bit of a curmudgeon who's just trying to rain on all of our parades.

• Stephen Daniels - Edinburgh
e-mail 101571.3117@compuserve.com

I haven't had time to write in for a couple of newsletters, so the following items refer to n/l's 42, 43, & 44 as indicated.

To Baerbel Schmidt (n/l 42 p21) - You said in your letter that in the US they have only officially released TNG tapes up to season three. Is this really the case, and if so why are we so far ahead of the States (usually it is the other way round).

To Edward Woo (n/l 42 p29) - You mentioned that in an episode of the Classic Twilight Zone a dustbin-lid sized UFO landed on an Earthlings roof - actually the UFO was from Earth and the house roof was that of an alien (this was the twist in the tale!). Do you recall a while back I used to go on about how much I hated DS9? Well I have changed my tune, and am even buying the official videos! (n/l 43 p45) Didn't Paramount put themselves up for sale as opposed to being bought out as a result of a take-over battle?

To Marie I J Park (n/l 42 p42) - Generations: The whole point of ejecting the warp core is that you do it when the core is going to breach, the fact that there is a breach in progress is no reason to abort the ejection routine. As for the saucer section heading for the planet, why go in that direction. There is no reason the saucer couldn't have headed into the safety of space.

To Jill Wadsley (n/l 43 p39) - I'm with you on the 'close-knit groups at cons'. I feel totally isolated when I go to cons alone (and I've only ever been on my own), there is nothing worse than wandering around pretending you are going somewhere between guest talks - and you can only look round the dealers' room so many times. The worst thing for me, is having to have dinner on my own in a Burger King or something. Those who look down on people who spend half the time in the video rooms should perhaps consider that they are there because

their only other option is to go back to their empty hotel room. Lecture over. [*Janet - You are welcome to link up with us at Contagion. I always seem to lose you at cons, but then I don't frequent the video rooms. :-)*]

To Jacqueline Y Comben (n/1 44 p19) - I think it is the sound of Janeway's voice, rather than her accent, that people remark about.

To Adam J North (n/1 44 p24) - At last, someone else who is sick to death of Klingons! I can imagine nothing more mind-numbing than a show all about them.

I read with interest Gary James Foggo's comments on p32 of n/1 44. He was talking about the sort of reputation Star Trek fans have, and I started wondering if it wasn't all our own fault. Or, perhaps, the fault of the vocal minority. In one of the articles a member was talking about when he or she went to one of the talks given by Leonard Nimoy while promoting his recent book. While queuing, members of the press arrived, and made their way into the hall, to which people in the queue started booing (this is the impression I got from the article, but even if it didn't happen in this instance, I have seen it happening elsewhere). What sort of impression does that give? These press-people probably have no interest in Star Trek, and would be just as happy filming their local MP in an interview. At least then it's probably the MP who would get booed and not them. They would get a first impression of those fans and it would be (and quite rightly) that they were a bunch of childish, immature idiots. The sad thing is, this is how they would now view all Trekkers, and as they are in the press, they have the power to spread their opinions a lot further than most. Perhaps, next time we are made fools of, we should be looking at other fans to find the reason, and not the people mocking us.

• M J Walsh - Stirling

Hello, everyone. (I'm new to this.) I think that all ST is brilliant, although I haven't seen Voyager yet. I like all the characters (the good guys, at least) but of

them all, Barclay is my favourite, mainly because while all the others are acting cool and calm under emergency conditions, he's just as terrified as I would be, yet still manages to get the job done.

Of all the bad guys, I think the best at this are the Cardassians, Q, the Borg Collective (Lore is a total psychopath), and if you're the kind of person who likes a really good fight, Klingons. I'm not sure yet which are the best episodes to my view - that is, I couldn't name them - but ones involving Data and/or the Borg are usually good. The technology fascinates me, as well as them often being good stories.

Response would be welcome - people list favourite characters/episodes, but they don't say why!

To Lesley Moyes - Re Dark Trek, N/L 44 - I agree totally. What more is there to say?

May the Force be with you. (I know, wrong universe, but it's the thought that counts!)

• Katrina Heintz - Bathgate

To Gary James Foggo N/L 44 - I'm curious - what type of con are you looking for? I and many people I know go dressed to Contagion, etc, and have great fun; it's a way of meeting people and a great conversation starter. But we also have other interests, and responsible jobs (like yourself). We may discuss Trek in all its forms, amongst other subjects, that is part of the fun. For me, the social aspect is as important as watching videos.

To Allan Kelly (N/L 44) - In the episode Facets, Jadzia probably wouldn't have to meet Vorad as she had already done so. The ritual in the story was for Jadzia to meet the hosts she had not known, and as she had already met the mad one (sorry, I can't remember his name) she also chose not to meet him.

• Michael Flett - Edinburgh

To Sheila Clark - Hmm, yes - If the Founders so distrust the solids, why was Odo sent among them? Either someone at

Paramount screwed up somewhere, or the Founders' goals are not as they appear - my original suggestion, I believe. (Of course, I suggested they may be more *benevolent* - they may also be *worse*...)

To Jackie Comben - Interesting that you say Kai Winn was in character in Life Support, because I felt Louise Fletcher was very uncomfortable in this episode. Rather than devious and calculating, she was depicted as a participant to murder. Okay, she was linked with the assassination back in Prophets, but she didn't actually pull the trigger - that's not her style.

Committees can insist on air conditioning until they are blue in the face, but if the hotel or the mechanism let them down, they can't be held responsible.

To Jean Perrin - Interesting surname for someone to be commenting on Vulcans! :) Actually, I find Tuvok the most accurate Vulcan portrayal for a long time. As to a Vulcan in Security - if his aptitudes lie in protecting others and guarding the ship, is it not logical that he pursue that course?

To Chris Howell - Not only spatial anomalies, but stories that never really happened (Hide and Q, Time and Again, The Visitor) and in Voyager, Alpha Quadrant stories. How come in thirty years we've never had any Delta visitors, yet in eighteen months Voyager has found the 37s, the Dreadnought and Chakotay's old spirit pals. How about Non Sequitur - it falls into all three of the categories. Does the Delta Quadrant have no stories of its own to tell? And where is Voyager headed anyhow? They started 70000 light years away, they're now 75000 distant. Hello, anybody?

To James O Donovan - I think you misinterpreted Phillipa Louvoir's meaning - when she referred to Data as a toaster, she didn't mean he should literally be regarded as such, but that she would be forced to rule as such unless evidence to the contrary was produced.

To Marie Raper - Sorry, but once again I disagree with you - additional dialogue was

exactly what was necessary. There are multiple backups to prevent a warp core breach - witness their incredulity when the cause of the Yamato's destruction was ascertained in Contagion. Yes, I agree the Enterprise took a battering, but it's had worse before - of course, they usually fire back. Data said, "Their shields are holding", and I'm not surprised, because the Enterprise only fired one shot! And didn't Riker ask for a volley of torpedoes rather than the one that painfully slow-motined across the viewscreen as Lursa and B'Etor casually strolled across the bridge? My feeling is, if they couldn't do the battle effectively on the budget they had, it should have been rewritten so it could be achieved believably rather than denying us the only chance we'll ever have to see the Enterprise-D on the silver screen.

To Ann Verschueren - You were 8 when you became a fan? I can't even date it - Trek has always been in my life (my mother encouraged me to read, write and Trek). Yes - old articles are fascinating - how we used to perceive the Federation and the Universe of Trek before we had all the glitz and background of the new series. I second this motion for reprinting articles!

• David Raper - Hull

On the subject of the ongoing CT v TNG debate - what a waste of everybody's time! Just as you cannot directly compare classic cars of different generations, so you cannot compare the new Trek formats with the original, but that does not mean to say that you cannot enjoy them. My only regret about CT is that they did not make more, and the same goes for TNG, whilst for DS9 and Voyager I'll wait and see, but in the meantime a little tolerance would go a long way, I think. If there is one long-running message throughout Star Trek, in any form, it's toleration towards others.

But enough of the philosophy and so to Voyager and Tim Russ as Tuvok. He is *not* Spock or Sarek, and he does not try to be, but he is still a Vulcan and a pretty good one too. As to his skin colour, so what? If Romulans and Klingons etc can cover the whole spectrum from light to dark, whyever not a

dark-skinned Vulcan? At least he isn't blue or green! (no insult intended to any Boliars or Orions out there). That we have yet to see Tuvok 'put the pinch' on someone is more a matter of opportunity and the fact that unlike Spock we rarely see him caught without a phaser to hand, though he has used the mind meld at least once so far (Ex Post Facto). My only regret is that they did not see fit to bring along his wife, which does raise the issue how will he cope with the seven year itch when it comes along - or maybe he's got over it?

As to Captain Janeway following Starfleet guidelines when dealing with the inhabitants of the Delta Quadrant, what else can she do? She has to make allowances for the non-Starfleet members of her crew, it's true, but what else *can* she do? The best chance Voyager has of getting home is by *not* getting involved in other people's disputes. That the Voyager has made enemies is due to the violent and unscrupulous nature of many of the Delta Quadrant's inhabitants, and not Janeway's decisions.

Re Worf not taking Alexander to DS9, who can blame him? In Way of the Warrior, Worf was reporting for duty in a potential war zone on a stationary and hence vulnerable target. Naturally he did not choose to take his son into danger, disrupting his life still further, when he was not even sure that he would be staying there himself. When combined with the ever-present threat of Dominion attack, small wonder Worf has left Alexander where he should be safe, though with the events in Home Front proving just how vulnerable Earth is to Dominion infiltration, that may change.

And finally, a suggestion to all who think DS9 is all doom and despair, I heartily second the suggestion that you watch Our Man Bashir, or try the Doctor in any Voyager where there is a 'medical' problem - a laugh a minute, I assure you.

• **Marie I J Raper - Hull**

Firstly to Bill McClure regarding Data and Picard's emotional reactions in ST:Generations, it is worth remembering that until his conversation with Troi, Picard was

still in shock over the sudden and tragic deaths of his brother and nephew. It takes any humanoid time to come to terms with such news and it is clear that Picard was certainly no exception, when he spoke to Troi, even he was unable to hold back the tears. In the case of Data, since emotions had been something he'd never experienced before, he was temporarily out of control rather than hysterical. The addition of the emotion chip to Data's neural net was something completely new, so it would have taken him time to adapt to the change in his programming. By the end of Generations, Data had, "after experiencing some 261 distinct emotions" managed to control his emotional state, except the one emotion that *no-one* could explain - crying when you're happy.

To Allan Kelly - If you have the novelisation of the episode Way of the Warrior, on P106 you'll find the following passage - "Dax smiled mischievously and spoke to him in clear Klingon: 'Yes, but I'm a lot better-looking than he was'."

To Alan Stephen - Please bear in mind that the rumours regarding DS9's cancellation after four seasons may be just that, rumours. It would hardly make any sense to cancel a quality ST series just when it has just about established itself in its own right. Personally I'd take anything like that with a large pinch of salt.

To Jacqueline Y Comben - Sorry, but I find your statement "Anyone born after 1960 cannot really appreciate the impact of Star Trek" as being slightly insulting. I was born in 1967, so does that mean I can't appreciate the impact of Trek, even though I don't dismiss CT as boring? Don't you think that TNG, DS9 and Voyager are also pioneers in a different way? True. I don't know what it was like to be an adult in 1969, but I do know what it was like to be an adult in 1990 when TNG hit British TV screens for the first time, and when DS9 followed suit in September 1995. I'm also in the fortunate position to watch Voyager at my local Star Trek Fan Club on a regular basis, so tell me what is wrong with appreciating *all forms* of Star Trek in the 1990s?

Finally, did anyone see Robert Beltram in *The Calendar Girl Murders* in late February 1996? Admittedly, he had more hair than he does now, but there's no way anyone could miss that face!

• **James O Donovan - Cork**

To Sheila Clark - Re the *Mirror Universe*. I wasn't criticising it, just pointing out what I considered to be an inaccuracy. Anyway, the 'cloaked ship detection device' existed in 'our' universe.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - Re Spock's DNA. Because the Romulans are an off-shoot of the Vulcan race, their DNA should be the same, therefore Spock's DNA would not have stood out. So it wouldn't be any use testing the dissidents' DNA.

In the customizable card game rule book, there is a piece in the last few pages that mentions the designers' setting up newsletters. Does anybody have any information or address that I could write to about these?

I would like to purchase one of the new IDIC badges. Would you accept an IRC as payment, as I can't send English stamps and I don't want to send coins through the post. *[Ed: Foreign members can send 2 IRCS for a badge.]*

Finally, I want to leave you with a joke I heard on television. Star Trek is like the average American family. The most important guy sits in the coolest chair, in front of the wide screen TV, telling everyone else what to do!

• **Gratienne Vandekerckhove - Belgium**

Re *ST:V* - If anyone should have asked me to give the main characteristic of this, then without a shadow of a doubt I'd say 'warmth'. It is a film which grew on me, a building up of layers of depth. I feel that of all the *ST* films, it's the one on even par with the series. Needless to say, it's my favourite.

To Antony Freelove and Janet Quarton - I couldn't agree with you more. Instead of growing together, *ST* fans seem to be drifting apart into various factions mostly coinciding

with the different series. In itself it is quite normal to have an affinity with the series which appeals most to each individual, if it weren't for the fact that more and more I get the impression that whatever series a person prefers, people have the tendency to give negative remarks on the validity of the other series.

I love *ST* in all its forms and though *CT* is my first love I appreciate the other series as well. *DS9* is the latest of the ones I can watch. From the start there was one character I had an immediate affinity with: Quark. I think Armin Shimerman does him to perfection. Each time I watch him perform he brings a smile to my lips and a lightness to the series. I cannot envision the fact that somewhere, someone would have decided that *DS9* was not acceptable in the *ST* universe and therefore didn't deem it worthy to develop fully. If there were a hundred different series, I still would welcome others. Each has its own attractiveness and qualities, and each is equally valid.

To Gary James Foggo - That's the beauty of it. You can enjoy *ST* any way you like, to whatever degree you feel comfortable with.

• **Alistair Blackett - Huntingdon**

It's great to be on board. I enjoyed reading *N/L 42*, and I'm enjoying reading *N/L 44*. I like the layout of the magazine, the letters and the cartoons. I'm also glad that you use spoiler alerts although I have learned some plot lines nonetheless (Kai Winn, heaven help Bajor! - or the Prophets help Bajor). Plot spoilers will always be a problem as many of us do not have Sky nor have we necessarily seen all the videos, whereas many of us have. One little complaint - not having the previous issue (43) I'm not always sure what the previous correspondent's point was; however, this is a problem I will not have in future, but other new members will. *[Ed - There's no simple answer to this, unfortunately.]*

Here's a couple of questions which I'm sure many of the more knowledgeable fans can answer: 1) When are we going to see a Ferengi female? Preferably a headstrong rebel who insists on wearing clothes!

2) In a combat situation, when is it appropriate to use photon torpedoes rather than phasers? I know that phasers can be used on variable settings, eg to disable rather than to destroy.

To Kathleen Glancy re the next Captain (N/L 42 P23) - How about an alien Captain? A Tholian or a Gorn (they have had plenty of years to either join or become allied to the Federation since their regrettably brief appearances in CT). OK, I'll settle for a Betazoid!

To Jean Perrin re Worf on DS9 (N/L 42 P28) - I am sure a temporary attachment away from DS9 can be arranged for Worf to tie in with a film plot. (I certainly hope so!)

To Janet Quarton/Ray Dowsett (N/L 42 P51) - I had always understood that the nearest parallel on 20th century Earth to Starfleet was the US Coastguard which acts as part of the US Navy in wartime but in peacetime carries out many duties including air-sea rescue, iceberg patrol, and support to the US Customs and Drug Enforcement Agency to combat smuggling.

To Clement Chung (N/L 44 P25) - Re numbers of Galaxy Class Starships. Don't forget new construction. Remember how quickly they rebuilt Starfleet after the Borg almost destroyed the fleet.


To Judith Taylor (N/L 44 P45) - Re your friend's 'geographical observations' on Chakotay. Could Chakotay not have walked (or travelled by some other means) from the gulf to the desert? I believe (though I am certainly no expert) that many North American Indian tribes were somewhat nomadic.

• **Ken Fowler - Norwich**

I think my favourite Star Trek episode must be The City of the Edge of Forever. My favourite comedy episode is a toss-up between The Trouble with Tribbles and I, Mudd. In The Trouble with Tribbles, catch the look on Captain Kirk's face as he opens one of the grain storage bins and a load of tribbles falls out on his head. In I, Mudd, catch the look on Harry Mudd's face when lots of robots of his wife Stella are made; he then notices the number on one of the robots. You can almost hear him say to himself '*Hæw many???*'

Question

• **Clive Viagas** - Gibraltar - Could any member please explain which of the six Galaxy Class Starships is the one on the Way of the Warrior promotion poster.

The USS Yamato was destroyed in Contagion and the Enterprise, as we all know, was also destroyed, so which one is it? 

"Gosh, doesn't some of this stuff look tacky, close to?"

A trip to the Star Trek Exhibition.

by Helen White

Well, we finally made it, after months of "We really must go to the Star Trek Exhibition while it's down here." Last Tuesday, five days before it left, Jo, Sam and I piled into my car and zoomed off to London. We parked in Hounslow and tubed to the Science Museum (noise of tube train skreeking as it goes along the track).

The Star Trek Exhibition, we found, was sectioned off from the rest of the museum, although if you wanted you could pay a bit more than the basic entrance and see both. We were just here for the Trek today, so we

trooped upstairs to the desk via a couple of tour guides in Starfleet (TNG era) uniforms.

The exhibition is divided into sections; original Trek (the biggest section, which I found highly surprising but very pleasing), TNG, movies, DS9 and lastly a teeny tiny section on Voyager.


There were a lot of costumes, a few chunks of sets (the TNG transporter room and (small) bits of the original Bridge, including the Captain's chair), and lots of props and 'faces', eg. Odo's head, a

Cardassian head, a Ferengi head, etc. I spotted one proud Mama toting her smallish baby round the exhibition; it seemed pretty interested in most things but started shrieking inconsolably when confronted with the Cardassian! As most stuff was inside glass cases, one of the best bits was that there were several chairs just behind railings (Kirk's, Picard's, the Klingon ship from Generations, the Captain's chair from Generations). All of these were labelled 'do not touch', but all three of us were unable to resist the temptation and little hands sneaked across the barriers and poked and prodded..... (except for Kirk's chair, sadly - we would have needed arms six feet long. I did touch the knobs on the console, though, oer). Interesting fact whoever built Lursa and B'Etor's ship for them had been to a Terran scrap yard - we definitely recognised an aged car seat.....

One thing that none of us had expected and which we were all impressed with were

the displays on how much Trek's technology had foreshadowed today's ditto. There were several examples given, e.g. mobile phones being much like communicators (although I suspect a zillion times cheaper, mutter, moan).

After wandering round the exhibition (oh, and what evil person put Uhura's movies uniform next to Scotty's? Talk about contrast!) we exited via, yes, a shop. I expected large amounts of 'only available here' stuff; I was wrong, luckily for my bank account. The best of the 'exhibition' stuff, in my view, was a sparkly pencil at a huge cost of 40 pence.

I enjoyed the exhibition a great deal, as did the other two, although with some reservations. I had expected a lot more exhibits, and Jo had expected a lot more 'interactive' stuff. However, it was a jolly good day out and well worth the money. 

THE STARFLEET BALL

reported by Sarah Rooke

This was held at the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth, Feb 9 - 11th 1996, and was organised by USS Excalibur. Guest of honour was Richard Biggs (Dr Franklin of Babylon 5) followed by George Marshall, model maker, Chris Boyd and astronomer Ian Parker. (The first two were made honorary Admirals in Starfleet Academy.)

I went with Valerie and Donna Campbell, two fellow IDIC members (hi, there!) and we arrived from Portsmouth around 9.15 am to register. As all three of us had volunteered for a spot of stewarding, we checked our slots and then headed into the dealers' room to check out the merchandise, then on to the various video rooms for a bit of viewing. Unfortunately I missed the opening ceremony as I was stewarding, but I did see Richard and George a few times in the corridor!

As the event included a 3-course meal and disco in the evening, we all waited patiently (and with much anticipation) for

our grub from 6 - 7 o'clock. We had a lovely reception, with toastmaster introducing us to Anne Lindup (?) and her crew. As it was fancy dress, everyone was dressed up - we spotted Ferengi, Cardassians, Romulans, Vulcans, and of course Klingons and folk in Starfleet uniforms. There were even characters from Babylon 5, Star Wars and Red Dwarf (we did wonder how the two Volons from B5 would eat, but we soon found out!) There was vegetable soup, cajun chicken and seasonal vegetables, and passion fruit sorbet in a candy snap basket. There was an award ceremony and Janice Brett was given a special award for all the hard work in Starfleet Academy, and Anne Lindup was given a special award also for USS Excalibur.

George Marshall, in fine form, then entertained us all, giving us his version of ST:NG (his Picard, Riker, Worf and Geordi were hysterical). There was a funny moment when George's mike was left on, unbeknown to him, whilst Anne was speaking, which had everyone in stitches. Anne promptly pulled

him on stage by the ear; George simply replied (in Worf's voice) "I'm sorry, Commodore".

We all then proceeded into the disco - everyone joined in for Star Trekkin and Bohemian Rhapsody (which Bea Jones led) - I think a German lass was a bit confused by our head banging on this one, but she still joined in.

As Val, Donna and I hadn't booked at the hotel, we had to leave about 12.30 to get back home (nobody wanted to!) So it was until the next day...

On the Sunday, everyone was a bit subdued from the night before, a fact Richard commented on during his talk. He also said he'd learned a few new dances and watched an episode of Red Dwarf to see what it was all about.

Donna and I found ourselves in good

company when he later sat in our row with his girl friend Laurie during Chris Boyd's slide show of the new series of B5. We learned a few interesting spoilers (I'll definitely be watching) and we had a blooper reel from the set.

During Richard's talk, he spoke about the clowning on set of the cast of B5 with Claudia and Jerry, his role in an episode of TJ Hooker where he hit WS a little too hard on the nose (subsequently this was cut!) He also told us how he's asked JMS for a love interest, and always seems (for a doctor) to be tagging along with the other characters and not being in his med-lab.

After the closing ceremony, I nipped back into the dealers' room for a copy of the B5 sound track by Christopher Franks (?) before Val, Donna and I set course for home. It was an enjoyable weekend and I hope to be going to next year's event.



SPACE CHASE

CHURCHILL THEATRE, EDINBURGH, 27.11.95 - 9.12.95

Tempo Musical Productions

Reviewed by Kathleen Glancy

Classic Trek, TNG and DS9 meet Madonna, Gladiators, Rock & Roll and, most important of all, PANTOMIME!

Whoever wrote the script for this extravaganza did not receive a credit in the programme. Perhaps (s)he was nervous of a Trekkie Revenge Squad, outraged at the notion of a Starship called Thunderpants, tracking him/her down. The music was classic 60s rock and roll, with one brief incursion by Lionel Monchton - and of course, Star Trekkin'.

Tempo Musical Productions are an amateur, but very good quality, group which normally puts on musical comedies of a more conventional kind than this production, which was quite deranged. The humour was pure slapstick, with the odd pun thrown in; the characters were highly improbable, the story ludicrous, the singing and dancing,


costumes and special effects; all excellent - in short, just like a pantomime should be. I knew it would be a fun night when I looked at the programme and found such characters as Captain James T Slogg (try saying this officer's name without his given name and initial), Commander Biker, Mr Spook, Info, Dr Basher and Dianna Trite. Ms Snotty the Chief Engineer, Lt Bitova Dipstik and Lt Flora la Marge seemed to have suffered sex changes from their role models, while Lt Wolf was an odd sort of Klingon whose mother had been frightened by a big bad Gladiator. I made a bet with myself that 'Mad' Donna Snokkas would wear a bra with conical cups, and indeed she did.

The plot, if we can call it that, concerned the efforts of this truly motley crew to retrieve Captain Slogg from Megadon the Mighty, Monarch of Marzipan, boo, hiss, and sort themselves into suitable couples. This

they succeeded in doing, though I still have reservations about Spook and Snotty, in time for the happy ending - even Megadon escaped to be bad another day. It wasn't for the purists - boy, it wasn't for the purists - but I enjoyed it very much.

The performances were all good - I must single out Mr Spook, who was played by Max Smart. I have now told Linda Wood all she needs to know - for the benefit of the rest of you, Mr Smart is a well-known amateur performer who belongs to several musical groups. I've never seen him in a serious role, which is a good thing as he has a stage presence which evokes hilarity as soon as he

comes on, before he as much as opens his mouth. This is intensified by Vulcan ears, while his entrance in Act II in a short nightshirt and bunny slippers stopped the show. I should say the state of undress was nothing to do with Snotty - he was getting ready for bed as part of a search party looking for Slogg in an alien forest, but on perceiving his companions had retired to their sleeping bags without undressing, he nobly went on watch instead. After all," he conceded, "I have the sharpest ears."

If Megadon comes back for another try next year, I'll be there. 

QUO VADIS, SPOCK?

Jay Stevensen

I was first introduced to Leonard Nimoy by a green blooded alien - and I'm very grateful. It meant discovering two fascinating personalities in one. I'm always delighted when I see how popular the enigmatic and attractive Vulcan still is. How well his name is known, even by those who have not followed his Starfleet career in any detail, and what an excellent ambassador he has been for a series that has given so many people so much pleasure. He is an established sci-fi cult icon now, as secure in his niche as literary creations like Sherlock Holmes. He can withstand parodies (affectionate and otherwise), and rise above facetious media criticism.

I'm equally pleased to read of Mr Nimoy's many successes. Trek has (ultimately) been good for him - but he has also been good for Trek. There had been handsome action hero-figures on TV before. And lovable, irascible doctors. But Spock is unique. Many actors have portrayed Sherlock Holmes. It is impossible to think of anyone else playing Spock. He "belongs" to Mr Nimoy.

Having an alien on the Enterprise bridge was one of Gene Roddenberry's most inspired moves. The chemistry between the Big Three might have been an unplanned stroke of luck, but casting Leonard Nimoy as

the alien was even luckier. Would the character have been so popular, over such a long span of time, if his creator had been revealed in private life as one of those sad creatures often described as a "hellraiser"? Certainly Mr Nimoy is "not Spock", but they share some admirable character traits: honour, compassion, humour, a lively curiosity about the world, the ability to give and inspire love (Spock might dispute some of this by claiming that he is motivated only by logic, but we are no longer fooled by his protests!). We can look to Spock/Nimoy as a role model - and be safe in the knowledge that no jarring scandal will dent our images.

But didn't Spock's own alter-ego write a book rejecting the character? Read on: "Given the choice, if I had to be someone else, I would be Spock. If someone said, 'You can have the choice of being any other TV character ever played' I would chose Spock. I like him, I admire him, I respect him." This is not a recent quote, a belated homage to the advantages that Trek has brought. It was written in 1975, in the "infamous" *I am not Spock* - which, far from being a rejection, is a positive, original, and sensitive attempt to explain how an actor came to terms with a role he did not seek: that of "a pop culture hero."

Mr Nimoy has stayed a pop culture hero for much longer that he probably ever believed possible. Whatever irritation he felt in the past when his serious theatrical work brought reviews like "Nimoy Great sans Ears" he has come to terms with the constant public identification. "I think now I am definitely more comfortable if I am on the street and someone calls me Spock. I don't have a problem with it." (Sci-Fi Universe interview, February 1996).

I like Mr Spock. I like Mr Nimoy. So why do I feel no sense of loss when I suspect that we are unlikely to see the Vulcan on screen again? I do not believe that Spock (or any of the Classic bridge crew) have "outlived their usefulness", but I do believe that they have probably passed beyond the need to keep reappearing in films that no longer capture the Original Trek "tingle".

I hope the film makers get it together and give Next Generation fans something as worthwhile and definitive as ST:IV. But I was glad when Leonard Nimoy refused a cameo walk-on in Generations. I would welcome a follow-up to Unification - but only if Spock

had an integral (although not necessarily leading) role. I don't really think this will happen.

We can still travel on the original Enterprise whenever we wish, at the touch of a video remote button. We are not losing Spock. His position is secure. We could be gaining something more valuable. This is Mr Nimoy on the current state of Trek (Sci-Fi Universe, February 1996): "I don't see any vision. I don't see any excitement happening. I don't see any new sense of 'Whoa, look where they're going with Star Trek'."

What would he do to "breathe new life into the franchise"? "That calls for a meeting at Paramount. They have to call me and say come in and tell us where you want to take us.". And if he got that call, where *would* he take Trek? "I can't go into it. Suffice to say that somewhere out there, in the universe - there is an ideal."

Quo vadis, Spock? In control of Trek's future?

Maybe....?



THE NATURE OF STAR TREK FANDOM

by Annike Bissinger

Gary James Foggo's comments in IDIC 44 motivated me to write this article. Gary, don't take me wrong here, I didn't regard your letter as a hostile one, I just feel I have to say the following things.

For some people, this newsletter may mainly be a means of getting the latest information about the actors, TV series and books, but I guess to most people IDIC is a forum where they are able to express their thoughts about Star Trek and discuss themes they are interested in. It is this sort of discussion that differentiates fans from followers, in my opinion. My definition of 'the fan' is a person who likes a series, thinks about it and likes to analyse or discuss an episode at length (much like discussing a book, football game or whatever). Lately I found several comments in the Postbag

criticising how some people appear in public, making remarks like "it's only a TV show" and "Why do you discuss this issue - it's only fantasy".

I think we are all aware that Star Trek is only a science fiction TV series created by a human being called Gene Roddenberry, a series with fictional characters living in a fictional future. But most of us like to discuss things about Star Trek anyway. Of course they're not real - but so what? Some of the issues Star Trek deals with made me reconsider my own life philosophy, think about some things I hadn't thought of before. This has nothing to do with being detached from reality (or whatever). Mostly it's fun, and if we can learn something from watching the show, that's all for the better.

I think 'the Star Trek fan' doesn't exist. Some of us just like to watch the show (the followers), some of us like to collect every bit about ST they can find in the newspapers, others write stories, others build models, sew costumes. Some are interested in the technical aspects, some look out for political stories, human (or alien) relationships, some even use pen-names to correspond. Even here in fandom we are a bunch of very different people connected with each other only through fandom. Some are passive participants, others are actively involved in creating a zine, newsletter or whatever. Despite all that, we all share the same passion, and I think at least here, in IDIC, in fandom, we should be able to discuss fictional events, walk around in uniform at cons, etc, without being called crazy or ridiculous - I think most of us get enough of

that sort of thing already from non-Trekkers (which mostly starts when you admit that you simply like to watch the series). I really don't want to read that kind of comment in these pages too.

Because - hey, this is just a hobby everyone should be entitled to pursue the way they want it, without being pointed at by others. We just want to have fun, make new friends, and just maybe we are able to get something more out of this show made for pure entertainment - perhaps changing us into more compassionate and thoughtful individuals - even if it is only new ways to dream.

"For everyone needs new ways to dream."



VULCANS AND EMOTIONS

by Michael Flett

I thoroughly enjoyed Sue Bursztynski's excellent article - the only omission was the date of original publication, but I assume it was not recent as it has no references past mid-fourth season TNG. I do not dispute the conclusions, but would like to offer some alternative views on the interpretations given.

First is the dismissal of Sybok and Selar. Just because his beliefs are "forbidden by Vulcan teaching" (why?) does not mean he is a 'nutcase'. And Selar may only have been in one episode, but she was a very strong character, and very Vulcan - she smiled with sympathy and grace the whole episode through but never with her face.

The Sehlat scene in Journey to Babel - I always felt Spock's glance was a warning to Amanda, not permission to proceed. Regardless, the outcome was the same.

In Amok Time (pardon me while I open the can of worms known as *interpreting Vulcan nuance and gesture*) T'Pol, far from being the rampant xenophobe, may be a firm believer in IDIC and all it means - but she may still wish privacy in her family affairs,

particularly those that have been passed down unchanged since barbaric times. And why should she warn Kirk - Spock invited him, surely it was Spock's responsibility to ensure his friends were prepared? As to T'Pol - it was asked what is wrong with being married to a legend? Nothing, if you want it. I wouldn't, and neither did she. Maybe she didn't want the attention, possibly because it invades her privacy, possibly because it interferes with her own ambition, which she cannot achieve if under scrutiny or (worse) fulfilling family duty. And Vulcan families are expected to support each other (Perrin, speaking on Spock in Unification). If T'Pol and Spock had different views, would they be allowed to disagree in public, or would one have to capitulate?

Finally - why should the Vulcans we see be regarded as typical? Perhaps they have been allowed to represent the species precisely because they are the acceptable, humanised face of the Vulcan race. Remember the shock following our first look at the Klingon Imperial race? You have been warned...



ROXANN BIGGS-DAWSON (LT. B'ELANNA TORRES FROM VOYAGER)

Interviewed on Womens Link Web site (<http://www.womenslink.com>).

It's 8:30 in the morning, and in the cluster of white trailers nestled around the entrance to stages 8 and 9 on the Paramount lot is one with a script-lettered sign, "Roxann Biggs-Dawson." Roxann opens the door clad in a green-and-white striped bathrobe, short wet hair, and her natural forehead. She could, this morning, be anyone's neighbor. But she is, in fact, waiting to be called to makeup, where she'll be transformed into B'Elanna Torres, seen by millions each week on STAR TREK: VOYAGER.

Being seen by many is nothing new for Roxann. Putting on plays in her garage by age 5 or 6, she "graduated" to school plays by third grade, where she wrote, directed, and starred in a play done in the school auditorium. "I don't remember the name of it," she says, "but it was about a princess who was being forced to get married and she didn't want to, so she made a riddle to the kingdom and said, 'Anybody who can answer this question can marry me.'" The riddle? "What's hot and cold at the same time?" When somebody from the kingdom answered it ("a hot fudge sundae"), the princess (played by Roxann) threw herself on the floor in a temper tantrum. "Now, I don't know what psychiatrists would think of that!" laughs Roxann, "but I was only in the third grade!"

Beyond that, Roxann went to the University of California at Berkeley, majoring in theatre, and was studying at San Francisco's American Conservatory Theatre when she responded to an open casting call for Broadway's "A Chorus Line." She stood in line with 500 hopefuls, and from there was plucked to play the role of Diana Morales on Broadway. "It changed my life," she says. "Three days later I had to let go of my apartment, put everything into storage, and move to New York -- it was quite a trip!" The acclaim in "A Chorus Line" led to roles on TV's "Another World," "Nightingales" and "The Round Table," as well as TV movies ("Broken Angel") and features ("Guilty by Suspicion"). And she continued to do theatre,

writing plays as well as acting in them. She's still a member of New York's Circle Rep, where two of her plays have been workshopped.

From all that theatre experience, Roxann says the most useful to her in STAR TREK: VOYAGER is the ability to use language. "I swear, even if you've studied Shakespeare, Shaw, and Chekhov, it's still difficult to say, 'Vent a couple of the LN2 exhaust conduits around the dorsal emitters.'" Vent a couple of what?? Well, B'Elanna Torres, Chief Engineer, ought to know. But while speaking the lingo is new to her, STAR TREK itself is not. She grew up with the show, in fact... but hated it, and with good reason, she says. Her family lived behind William Shatner, and she used to play with his daughters. "I would want to play basketball, and they always wanted to sit down and watch reruns of STAR TREK!"

Now she appreciates fully the irony of being a regular on the show. And she appreciates, likewise, the time it takes her to get into makeup for it -- two and a half hours, usually. On an early call, her days can begin at 4:30 or 4:45. Every day is a brand new "face" for Roxann; Emmy-nominated Greg Nelson creates from a fresh canvas, gluing on her forehead and painting in skin tones and detail anew. At the end of each day, her "face" is thrown away.

Her trademark high forehead has led to jokes with fellow cast member Robert Picardo, who plays the Doctor. "Bob Picardo says that if B'Elanna and Doc Zimmer ever had children," says Roxann, "I'd give birth to one large forehead!" The first time Roxann saw herself as B'Elanna in the mirror, she cried. "It really scared me," she says. "I didn't understand it... but now I have really grown to love it. I can't imagine B'Elanna without it now."

Off camera, Roxann tries to wear as little makeup as possible. "I try to drink a lot of water," she says, "I don't drink enough, but I

try to keep my skin as clear as possible. Every once in a while I'll get an allergic reaction to what they use to put [the makeup] on and take it off, and my skin will break out in red blotches everywhere."

Roxann lives with her husband, casting director Eric Dawson, in a house in L.A. they bought 2 1/2 years ago. In her off-hours, her favorite things to do are play with her dogs ("Bear," an aging Akita, and "Harley," a Rottweiler puppy), work in her garden, and work around the house. "I like cleaning!" she says with a grin. "Maybe it will wear off." She also loves country music - Clint Black, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Reba McEntire, Nanci Griffith, Garth Brooks, Patsy Cline, and more.

Comparing the real Roxann to B'Elanna, Roxann says B'Elanna's probably more of a risk-taker, but otherwise "She's pretty embarrassingly close to me. B'Elanna acts more on her feelings. I feel them more and don't act on them. But when B'Elanna's angry, she's angry."

Not surprisingly, given Roxann's background as a writer as well as actor, Roxann keeps a journal, breaking down every major script in terms of her character's arc. She credits the writers with being closely in synch with her own perceptions of the character. "There are times when I'll write something about B'Elanna that I've discovered, and in the next script the lines will be there."

Her favorite episode thus far? "Probably 'Faces,' because that was such a challenge." In that episode, she's split in two, playing fully Human and fully Klingon. In another episode, "Prototype," she acts opposite a robot, and in another episode, she plays opposite a computer. "I'm waiting to have an actual human being as a co-star," she laughs.

In the meantime, she did kiss Chakotay in a fantasy sequence. "[That] was a need, I think, of B'Elanna's to have some kind of human contact," explains Roxann, "but it could only happen in her fantasy. And I think she was embarrassed by that fantasy. Chakotay is a mentor, somebody to look up to, and at times a father figure. So there are lots of ways you could look at why that fantasy occurred." How does she want to see that storyline resolved? "Well," she says, "I don't want to see any storyline completely resolved till the series is ending, because I think that's what keeps everything going!"

One aspect she likes lately is that they're starting to explore B'Elanna's sense of humor. "A lot of people seem to identify with this character," says Roxann, "with this inner struggle, the inner war of two sides of yourself. I think there are a lot of people out there who feel torn between two or more worlds and are trying to reconcile that part in themselves. And they really do connect with B'Elanna."



RELATIONSHIP

by Vered Gilad

So, I love ST and especially TOS. Why? I ask myself. What makes this series so special to me? I definitely like the grand ideas behind the series and especially living and working side by side with other species (something which I translate to peace with our neighbours in our time) and I like seeing various aspects of what could one day be our future. Why do I like TOS above all? I know all the series boast the same motto and that TOS is very primitive compared to the new series which use the most modern technology of our times, but what I like most in ST is

relationships. I like to see how this aspect works in the future, because ST's future is actually describing our present, dealing with our day to day issues in a 'futuristic' way. For me, ST has been most, and foremost, about the people. What I want to write about is how I view the treatment of character interaction in each of the ST series.

In the beginning, there was only Star Trek, with no additions to its name, only plain old Star Trek, and here were the greatest friends of all time. Yes, everybody

knows who I'm talking about; those three (not only those two). Kirk, Spock and McCoy are such good friends that I wish everyone had such excellent friendships in their lives. They will give their lives to save each other, but I think that the most important part of their relationship is their conversations with one another. The way they would check out the moods of each other and be there to help the one who is 'down', and be there to celebrate each other's joys. That is what I like coming back to when I watch videos of original series episodes. I want to see Kirk comforting Spock comforting McCoy(!) comforting Spock(!) comforting Kirk comforting McCoy comforting Kirk... I want to see Spock and McCoy arguing and Kirk having the time of his life watching them. I want to see Kirk being helped in making his tough decisions by both his friends. I want to see McCoy angered by the unfairness of things and the hopelessness of having to see one of his friends suffer, and much more.

These things make me feel for these fictional characters. They are also the things I miss most in TNG.

Of course we are dealing with a completely different bunch of people compared to TOS. I think that was intentional, so as not to create a copy of TOS. I can understand that, but I think that these people sometimes lose their relation with reality. In a workplace, people develop relationships with others to a certain degree, and in many cases these are not very deep, but one usually tends to have a small number of very close friends with whom one feels free to express deep feelings. We need this sort of relationship because we cannot hold our emotions inside us all our lives. The Enterprise-D has about 1000 people on board. That makes it into a community. I would expect each crew member to find at least one person who will be a very good and close friend in this environment.

I am, of course, focusing on the main characters. To me they seem real... nice... but that is all they are. They are nice people. How would you like to be described as 'nice'? Picard is nice. Beverly is nice. Troi is nice. Geordi, he's real nice. Data is nice (but he's an

android). Riker - oh, well. Worf - my favourite character in TNG - he's not the nicest. No, he's real funny. Most of those people are just plain nice. Oh, they work well together. They play poker together and go into a holodeck together. So what? You can do the same with a bunch of people from your workplace (well, maybe not the holodeck bit!). It's just not enough. There's something missing. I feel sorry for Picard. He seems so lonely, surrounded by all his *nice* friends.

I felt that in TOS, because it was hard to create effects that would convince one that we were actually dealing with the 23rd century, the actors had to add a lot of dimension to their characters, because they were the focus of the show. They took the spotlight off the simple SFX and moved it on to them. I think a lot of this was lost in TNG with its modern SFX technology. The FX are of course better, and they seem to have a bigger part in the story. This comes in a certain way instead of the actors' parts. Sometimes I feel that in TNG the people come second.

I think that in DS9 the situation is much better. Actually, the fact that the series takes place on a space station which isn't moving about in space in search of encounters with various aliens is for me an advantage and not a disadvantage, like many others seem to claim. In TNG there is a certain dependence on these 'outside events' in the development of the stories. There is a need for these events to push the story further and so less time is spent on character interaction. In DS9 the relationships between the various characters take precedence as this series depends more on this kind of interaction and the development of the story.

Take, for example, the great scene in the 1st season episode in which Lwaxana meets Odo. They are stuck in an elevator. They have to make conversation. Eventually they move on from small talk as they find themselves having no-one else to talk to about their situation. Of course this was forced on them, but that is just it; you are living and meeting with the same people day after day. Can you tell me that after spending

seven years together, your relationship with them will be as shallow as it was when you first met them? DS9 has a lovely depiction of the relationships between Odo and Quark, Julian and Dax, Julian and O'Brien, Sisko and his son. These are living people; they feel a lot more real to me.


Now I move on to Voyager. I must state first that I haven't seen enough of the series and so my view might still change and people should feel free to disagree (that goes for everything I've said, of course). In the beginning, I liked the series precisely for the action bits and I did not pay too much attention to the character interaction. It was all new to me and there was a lot going on in each episode and I didn't try to notice only certain bits of the picture. I just viewed the whole of it and it was quite spectacular. Gradually, after seeing most of the first season episodes I started to look for something beyond the aura of adventure, action and excitement which surrounded the episodes.

Yes, you guessed it, I was looking for some good character interaction. The most promising relationships so far are those of Tuvok and Janeway and Kes and the Doctor. Otherwise, there is a lot to work on. B'Elanna started out as a very promising character but was dimmed after the episode that dealt with her being chosen for the position of Chief Engineer. Paris and Kim are cute, but shallow. As I stated, there's a lot more to be

desired.

Actually, I heard that some people are hoping for love affairs. Well... I guess this should be considered as character interaction (mildly speaking) and probably something should occur on Voyager which has a bunch of rare races as far as the Delta Quadrant is concerned. They are probably bound to find love interests in one another sooner or later. It is quite natural - but I wasn't talking about love affairs as the focus of the relationships on Voy. This is good for a few episodes here and there, but not something regular on a ST series. If such a thing were to happen, then ST would lose its essence and turn into a completely different kind of series. No, I was referring again to strong friendships such as that of the cab three of TOS.

We are talking about a bunch of people stuck with each other on a spaceship, probably for a very long time. They are all that they have. They must depend on each other. They must turn into a family. A few quarrels here and there, but also affection and sensitivity to one another. A shoulder to lean on and an open heart and mind to speak to and to unveil oneself to.

If Voy's producers won't create these relationships, then Voy's characters have nothing in common with us and I will find it hard to watch them, because I will be looking for something to relate to, and that something won't be there. 

THE SPIRIT OF IDIC

by Sandra Necchi

I have been quietly enjoying IDIC for the past year and have contented myself with remaining a silent 'spectator' here across the Atlantic. However in the last issue I saw a trend in various letters that concerned me, and which has finally spurred me to contribute this little opinion piece. Specifically, I am responding to those who condemned negative comments about any one of the Trek series. This includes the article by Gloria Fry.

Firstly, a little introduction. I began watching the original series during its first run when I was about 7 or 8 years old (1967-68) and have been a fan since. I joined fandom in 1973, and my first convention was in 1975, the last of those big New York committee cons that lasted 5 days. I was active in fandom until about 1986, before TNG first aired. For a long time I had no interest in TNG, since I considered its cast of characters one of the blandest in all of television. However I began watching it

regularly in its last two years, and have now watched most of it in syndicated reruns. I discovered that despite a very dull set of characters there were some very strong episodes with powerful science fiction ideas, often dealing with serious political and social issues. I even grew to tolerate a few of the characters (Picard mainly - I liked Patrick Stewart since before TNG) and became a fan of the secondary characters, or characters that didn't last - Yar, K'Ehleyr, Pulaski and Ro. I have since become a fan of DS9, which I prefer to TNG, as it has a more interesting group of people, although I'm disappointed with the current season. I think Voyager is still a bit weak, though it has had some decent scripts, and the characters are certainly more lively than those in TNG. I remain, however, a diehard fan of Classic Trek, and it still comes first in my heart. For me, no-one has ever been able to improve on Spock or McCoy. For me, the Berman/Piller Star Trek no longer shows Humans encountering and learning from more advanced, wiser alien races like the original did.

However I know there is now a newer generation of Trek fans, many of whom care little for the original show. It's taken me a while to get used to this, as well as the new fandom. I'm still not used to referring to my favorite SF show as 'TOS' or 'CT'. To me, it was always just 'ST'. Since I returned to fandom in 1992-3, I recognize very little of the fandom I once knew, and I am dismayed by the kinds of conventions that exist now, and the merchandise-drenched popularity of the franchise. Most of the people I knew are gone.

So I too am sensitive to criticisms of the original series, especially when uttered by people who have seen very little of it, the 'Johnny-come-latelys', as Gloria put it. I very much sympathized with her article. Like others, I didn't much care for Alan Kelly's remarks about TOS, and I'll never understand people who think big budgets and SFX 'help in getting the story across', as Alan claimed. For me it's quite the opposite, since these aspects usually *detract* from telling a good, solid story with well-delineated characters.

I have little trouble watching old TV shows and movies. I often prefer them. My favorite SF film is still 1951's 'The Day the Earth Stood Still.' I've never been impressed by the superficial distraction of SFX. As an example, I am quite able to appreciate the intelligence and maturity of 'Blake's 7' than the endless scenes of mindnumbing technobabble of TNG. And today's Hollywood is full of big-budgeted, SFX-laden junk.


So, to all you TOS fans out there feeling slighted by the remarks of these newer folks, I'm very sympathetic to your sentiments.

Having said all this, however, I have to disagree with the notion that it's a 'bad thing' to express negative, critical opinions. Some of the commentary last issue even intimated that letterwriters should censor themselves, and that IDIC's editors should screen such negative commentary from its pages. I don't like reading comments like those made by Alan Kelly, but I believe that he must feel free to make them. That way, I too can express my own very critical opinions, as I have in this article. Reaction such as I saw in the last issue can have a 'chilling effect', which intimidates people into silence or worrying excessively about the content of their letters. I prefer an honest, heated discussion to a bland 'everything's rosy' letter column. If that happens to IDIC, then it'll simply become boring. 'Heated' does not mean 'abusive', by the way. Strong opinions need not deteriorate into emotional arguments full of anger. If debate does begin to slide into immature outbursts' then perhaps IDIC's fine editors can step in. One of the things I have enjoyed about IDIC is that the discussion is very lively but not abusive, and the editors are not heavy-handed about controlling debate. I applaud them.

I fully understand people feeling hurt, or angry, or irritated at comments like TOS is 'dull and boring'. I feel the same way. But I don't understand, nor agree with, the desire to choke off such comments. I am secure enough in my love for TOS and am not so defensive about the show that I can't tolerate hearing any negative commentary about it.

After all, I have my own criticisms of the original, as most Classic fans do. I recognize that it was not perfect. And, as well, I should feel free to say what I feel about TNG. Neither I nor Alan should have to walk of eggshells about our equally valid opinions towards TOS or TNG, however critical they may be.

There's no need to fear strong, critical opinion. I don't understand why some people find them so personally upsetting. Rather than condemn others for expressing opinions with which you do not agree, respond maturely, but forcefully, with your own. Whenever we decide to engage in discussion

with a diverse group of people, we enter into an arena where disagreement is bound to happen. That's the nature of discussion. And strong opinions are perfectly natural and healthy. They're inevitable. The only way to get away from them is to refrain from participating in the discussion and leave the group, making certain you surround yourself with those who feel as you do. Many people do this, and they have every right. But it's unfair to try to impose some 'rule' on the group against comparing one show with another - what is so wrong with comparisons? - or against negative opinions so as not to offend others' sensibilities. That's a sure way to end discussion entirely. 

SO YOU WANT TO WRITE PRO TREK?

Jay Stevensen

Jean Sloan's article (N/L 42 p 71) made it sound almost too easy. But if you're planning to send Voyager or DS9 your sparkling spec script, or Pocket Books your literary baby, I have to say that I believe it probably has about as much chance of being accepted as you have of getting six winning numbers on the National Lottery.

Pessimistic? Maybe. I'd prefer to call it practical. According to Write for Star Trek! (Wired, January 1996) the Next Generation became (in 1989) the only show on television willing to consider "spec" scripts - but not through any desire to encourage amateur fan writers. Rick Berman admits that he would love to dispense with the freelance policy (encouraging, eh?) but he can't because he doesn't have enough quality ideas coming in from his staff: "Star Trek is a formula. It's not my idea. It's not your idea, it's not Paramount's idea. It's Gene's idea of the 24th century, and that's very important to me. Not because I'm 'faithful to Gene's legacy' as people love to write in magazines; it's because that's what Star Trek is. To change that is not to be doing Star Trek anymore."

Eric Stillwell (who wrote Yesterday's Enterprise and organises writer's workshops at Cons with Lolita Fatjo) comments: "Thousands of scripts come into this office every year. Most of them are awful because

people don't follow the guidelines." And if you don't follow the guide lines you won't - like a lot of experienced professionals - get past first base. A common mistake, Stillwell says, is for writers to "approach Star Trek with the idea that there's something that they don't like, so they're going to 'fix it'. The bottom line is that it's not broken, and nobody needs to fix it"

Other mistakes are concentrating on aliens instead of the principle cast, and forgetting that often ignored, but all important, nuisance: the budget. If your script resembles Cecil B deMille's finest hour - forget it! Jean's advice about setting your story on board ship (for Voyager) is a good one. Tim Russ thinks so too: "An interesting story that takes place on the ship, for example, is something they'll snap up in a minute - if it hasn't been done before." Underline those last six words, though. Several times. In bright red.

Still want to try? Take heart from the fact that even the pros deliver duds. Here's Brannon Braga on Aquiel (co-written with Ron Moore): "A technical murder mystery combined with a lukewarm romance. At the end you find out the dog did it. It was terrible." But also consider this: just five freelance writers over the past eight years have had their scripts bought and produced - and

they have all been on the staff at one time or another. (Ron Moore, Melinda Snodgrass, Rene Echevarria, Dennis Bailey and David Bischoff).

So you'll try a novel instead? Vered Gilad's comments (N/L 43 p 28) are depressing, but probably true. As far as I know Pocket Books won't even consider non-agented scripts. They have their own agenda, and making a fan writer's day doesn't feature anywhere on it. They're in business for the money. They think they know what their readers want, and however much we complain about the quality of the novels, a lot of people buy them and Pocket Books, not unreasonably, take this as proof that they're doing things right. If they can get what they want from the writers already available to them, as Vered says, why bother with unsolicited scripts?

You stand more chance of getting published in the notoriously difficult sci-fi genre (maybe not a lot more, but a *bit* more) if you write some non-Trek short stories for the smaller magazines. A lot of well known names started out this way. Once you have a "reputation" the Trek team might actually come to you and *ask* you for a script. But don't hold your breath.

Has this put you off? Of course it hasn't. If you feel the creative urge you'll ignore all negative and pessimistic advice - as writers have been doing since someone first discovered how to represent sounds by making marks on a convenient flat surface - and have a go anyway.

And maybe you'll prove me wrong. I'd like to believe it...and I wish you luck!



WRITING FAN FICTION

by Sheila Clark & Valerie Piacentini

In N/L 44, Neil Barrett spoke about the different aspects of writing, and also touched on editing. Editing is a whole different ballgame; in this article, we are more interested in the question, "Why do writers write?" Ask any ten writers and you'll probably get ten answers - but along the way, some parts of these answers will coincide.

There is, of course, also the question of amateur versus professional writing.

Let's deal with professional writers first. Very few of them have an economic income from their writing. Extremely prolific writers do earn a lot - Isaac Asimov did - but most don't. James Blish, who was probably as well-known a writer as Asimov but far less prolific, had a job; his writing was a part-time, leisure-time occupation. But the important thing, for them both, was to write.

Fan writers make nothing at all from their writing. Indeed, there are people who write stories which are never seen by anyone else, not even by members of their families. Why do they write? What makes them begin?

Again because the important thing is to write; to produce something that they feel says something, even if it only says it to them.

There are several reasons why anyone may feel what they are writing is important; reasons that range from the desire to entertain through the need to explore some deep psychological problem to the wish to educate. Gerry Downes, once well-known in Trek circles as a fan writer but who dropped out of fandom some years ago, said at that time that there was a story inside her head that she wanted to read one day. That's probably par for the course. Typically, a writer - especially a fan writer - writes the sort of story that (s)he would like to read but may not be able to find anywhere. Fashions in writing do change and some themes and relationships seem to be politically incorrect nowadays for professional publishers - tough though that may be for people who enjoy reading those themes.

There may be an idea (or theme) that someone wants to explore; it may not be a new idea, but even if the budding writer

knows this, (s)he wants to explore it anyway and find his/her own resolution. There may be some personal problem that the writer wants - or needs - to put into perspective. There may be a memory the writer wants to consolidate in his/her mind as well as share with others. There may be something the writer feels is important to say - some philosophic thought that (s)he believes it necessary to develop and put into words. The story may find a publisher; it may not. The important thing, for the writer, is that the idea has been developed.

People who feel the need to write often begin as children. They may or may not have been good at writing school essays, but they probably enjoyed doing it - or at least enjoyed some aspects of it. A description of "What I Did on Holiday" (a typical subject for the first week of term when a teacher is trying to find out what her new class can do) might not have been their idea of an exciting subject, but at least they would enjoy the challenge of putting something down on paper whereas a non-budding writer would simply find the whole subject boring.

"What would happen if..." is a regular thought in the minds of would-be writers. If they feel their ideas are important enough, or entertaining enough, the writers - obviously - want to share them with others if at all possible - hence fan fiction.

Sometimes "What would happen if..." arises from seeing an episode of a series - this happened a lot with Classic Trek. There might be a loose end in an episode, or an apparent contradiction between one episode and another. Most people would shrug philosophically and ignore it, but it creates an itch in a potential writer's mind that simply must be scratched; (s)he has to find a way to resolve the problem. Or the question arises, "What would happen next?" What happened when Kirk returned to the ship at the end of *City on the Edge of Forever*? How did Spock (and Kirk) subsequently deal with the events in *Amok Time*? The writer's curiosity says, "Go and find out" - and then they want to share that answer with other fans, knowing that those same questions will have occurred to some other fans.

Writing is not a skill that comes automatically. Writing has rules if the material is to be an interesting read. It should be grammatical, properly punctuated and with correct spelling, but an editor - if it is submitted to one - ought to be able to correct any mistakes in those fields. Writers, however, should not depend on that! It was Jean Lorrah who said at a writers' workshop that although they *should* have staff who could be depended on to make such corrections, not all publishers did. Writers do need practice, too. A remarkable number of professional writers began as fan writers and learned the skill that way. Others have tried to break into the professional field without first learning writing skills and amassed a lot of rejection slips before having something accepted - if they ever did.

Of course, starting off by writing inside someone else's universe, as media fan writers do (Trek fans aren't the only ones!), is only a start. A lot of writers who begin that way find it is only a matter of time before they begin to write inside their own universe, whether that universe is science fiction, westerns, historical, detective or romantic.


Breaking in to professional publishing is not easy, and a lot of fan writers, no matter what they write or how well they write (and some write extremely well), can't be bothered making the effort. They have had fun developing an idea, trying to make it credible (something that Hollywood scriptwriters sometimes completely fail to do), trying to develop a believable background to their characters; they have written out of their system whatever it is that has been itching; they have achieved what they think is a resolution of whatever philosophical problem they have set out to explore. (Actually, this is why some people who don't feel the need to write anything also discuss episode/book plots and characterisations. It's not "Get a life" time, it's a search for credibility. Just because something is fiction doesn't mean you have to accept it all, uncritically, without a murmur - and Trek fans, in particular, don't!)

There is a great deal of personal satisfaction to be obtained from successfully

exploring something - no matter how few (if any) people ever read it.

Gene stated publicly that he approved of fan writing - he approved of anything that got people writing, and in approving of fan-written versions of his universe, he was probably unique in the world of Hollywood.

Is writing - particularly fan writing - a form of egoism? Perhaps. Yet the question can be extended to include all aspects of 'art' - why do artists draw or paint or produce sculptures; why do composers write music? Because they too have an itch, albeit a different kind of itch. Again, comparatively few of them achieve professional status; but they must still scratch that itch, even if their pictures hang only on their own walls or their music is played only for their own entertainment.

Why do writers write? Because they must. It's as simple as that. 

TO BOLDLY DRAW

AN ARTICLE ON STAR TREK COMIC BOOKS AND COMIC STRIPS

by David A Simpson

It's been nearly thirty years since the first Star Trek comic book appeared. Since then there have been thousands of pages of Star Trek comic strips from a multiplicity of publishers. This is a history of those strips.

The first publisher to latch onto the then-new show was the American company Gold Key Comics; they released Star Trek #1 in July 1967 in the standard American format of 32 colour pages. Always a cautious company, Gold Key waited a year before releasing a second issue, but the title soon appeared on a regular basis. In fact, by the time it was cancelled in 1979, they had published 61 issues. Was the comic book any good, though? Weeeeell...

You've all seen the third season of Star Trek, the one with such classic stories as Spock's Brain and the one about the space hippies (The Way to Eden). Well, that's the

How dare you make the U.S. Navy change its course!

Actual radio conversation released by the Chief of Naval Operations, 10-10-95.

#1: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

#2: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to South to avoid a collision.

#1: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

#2: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

#1: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE, WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY, DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW!

#2: This is a lighthouse. Your call.

level of story we're dealing with here. Most of the writers (mainly Paul S Newman, but also briefly including Marv Wolfman and Len Wein, who went on to great popularity and success writing and editing super hero comic books) and artists (chiefly the great Italian artist Aberto Giolitti, although Alden McWilliams drew many later issues in his pleasingly slick style) obviously treated producing the comic book as just a job, and a poorly paid one at that. They carried out their job, which was churning out cheap entertainment for the masses, with professionalism but without any flair.

I suspect the same can be said of Power Records, who in the early 70s released a series of comic books which came complete with a 7" soundtrack record containing dialogue and sound effects. They licensed such properties as Batman, Planet of the Apes, Spider-man and Star Trek. I'm not familiar with the Trek entries in this series, so

can't comment on them. For the record, though, there were at least four different issues released around 1973/74.

This shows just how popular Star Trek was; another result of this popularity was that in 1976 and 1977 the first three dozen issues of Gold Key's comic book were reprinted by Golden Books as a series of four thick collections called *The Enterprise Logs*. In America, this was a most unusual practice. British publishers, however, have a long history of releasing American comic book material as soft-covered comic albums or as hardcover annuals.

Once Trek reached British TV screens, World Distributors were quick to exploit this ready source of material. These albums and annuals continued to appear until at least the late 70s and many people - myself included - have very fond memories of them. Because they were so sturdy, secondhand copies still turn up regularly.

British readers didn't just have refried American comic strips to read, though. There was also a long-running British Trek strip, beginning in the first issue of *Joe 90: Top Secret*.

Launched by City Magazines in 1969 to cash in on Gerry Anderson's new show *Joe 90*, it also featured *The Champions* and *Land of the Giants*. The Trek strip was two pages per week in colour, and was drawn at different times by Harry Lindfield and Jim Baikie. There was just one problem; the first issue was dated 18th January 1969; unfortunately the BBC didn't start showing *Star Trek* until September 1969. The one strip that might have sold the comic was, therefore, almost unknown to the general public.

Actually, it probably wouldn't have mattered. By 1969 the British comic paper industry was shrinking rapidly. I doubt if anything could have helped *Joe 90: Top Secret* last longer than nine months.

The comic combined with TV21, and the merged title was relaunched as *TV21 & Joe 90*. Since Trek was by now known to the

British public, it proved to be one of the most popular strips in the comic. It needed to be. Over half the strips in the paper were Gerry Anderson properties (*Stingray*, *Captain Scarlet* and *Thunderbirds* mostly), and when they were dropped after issue 40 (released in July 1970) *Star Trek* became TV21's main selling point.

The strip was still in colour, drawn by various artists including Mike Noble, Harold Johns, Carlos Pino and Ron Turner and probably written by Angus Allan. It shared the comic with a motley crew of strips, including such bought-in fare as anonymous Spanish strips and some Marvel characters (*Spider-man*, *The Silver Surfer*, *Ghost Rider* and *Ringo Kid*). A poorly done publication, its cancellation in September 1971 after 105 issues was virtually a mercy killing.

Trek continued, though, the only strip to survive the merger with *Valiant*. Now (definitely) written by Angus Allan and drawn by John Stokes, it was the sole colour strip in an otherwise black and white magazine. Still popular, it lasted until Christmas 1973.

Four years, a total of over four hundred pages of all-new adventures. That's not bad going, I'd say. What a pity that it was no better than the American comic book.

Star Trek strips in Britain continued with a sort of half life, World Distributors' American reprints being supplemented by various Summer and Winter specials. These were begun in 1975 by *Polystyle*, and continued first by IPC, then *Marvel UK*; the last Special appeared in 1982.

Back in America, meanwhile, things were happening. In 1979 after more rumours than you could kill with twenty photon torpedoes, work was well underway on a *Star Trek* film; or a TV movie; or a TV miniseries; or even a whole new TV series. Paramount couldn't seem to decide what to do with *Star Trek*, but it was certain that they were going to do something. Gold Key, thanks to reruns and the animated *Star Trek* series, had been having continued success with their *Star Trek* comic book, so much so that you'd think

they'd be delighted at all this activity. They weren't, though.

Y'see, their option to continue publishing Star Trek came up, and unfortunately for them, Marvel Comics made Paramount a better offer. After eleven and a half years with Gold Key, Trek was being transported across to America's most successful publisher of comic books.

First though, a Star Trek newspaper strip appeared. Initially written and drawn by Tom Warkentin, it debuted in 1979 in the wake of the first Star Trek motion picture. From what little I've seen of it, it was solid if unspectacular. Unfortunately, newspapers soon started to drop the strip - adventure strips in American newspapers steadily lost popularity in the mid-70s, and have fought a losing battle ever since. Warkentin soon left, to be replaced by writer Sharmon DiVono (who had some plotting help from Larry Niven) and artist Ron Harris.

The strip then went into a catch-22 style decline; as more and more papers dropped it, royalty payments to creators fell; as the strip paid less and less, the standard of contributors declined; as the strip worsened, more and more papers dropped it. After a succession of ever poorer writers and artists, Star Trek: the Comic Strip faded away late in 1983.

At that, it lasted a good while longer than Marvel's Trek comic book. It started early in 1980 with a three-issue adaptation of Star Trek: The Motion Picture (also released as a colour magazine in the States and a hardback book in the UK) continuing on from that with new adventures. It wasn't a very good comic book, and ended after just eighteen issues. Two of the main contributors were writer Marv Wolfman and former X-Men artist Dave Cockrum; sadly, both they and their various successors turned in relatively lacklustre work.

It was late in 1983 before the next Star Trek comic book appeared, but it was worth the wait. DC Comics took over the franchise, and finally someone got it right.

The series was produced in fine style by writer Mike W Barr and artists Tom Sutton and Ricardo Villagran. They got things off to a good start, then sent things into overdrive in issue nine with the first chapter of a sequel to Mirror, Mirror. This proved to be high adventure of the best kind which both continued from and expanded on the original TV series. No longer a comic book which only Trek fans bought, and then rather grudgingly; this was now a top-notch science fiction series which could be enjoyed by anyone.

Several later stories also took off from the TV show (yes, I'm talking Harry Mudd and Tribbles here) but many others added considerably to Trek lore with new characters, new situations and such untold stories as Kirk's first day aboard the Enterprise.

The series ended in 1988 after 56 issues (plus three movie adaptations, several annuals and a Star Trek: The Next Generation miniseries). This wasn't an ending, though, just a transitional period. After what I understand were lengthy negotiations with Paramount, the summer of 1989 saw both a new Trek comic book and a companion series based on ST:TNG. They even did the first crossover between the two Treks, in a pair of miniseries called The Modala Imperative. That serial's available in a book collection, as are many Trek comic book stories - they even get stocked by the better public libraries.

A whole bunch of different writers and artists have contributed to DC's comic books over the years, far too many to name. Most of them seem to have done an excellent job.

Despite this good work, when Deep Space 9 came along DC didn't do the (by now inevitable) comic book. Instead, rights went to a much newer company called Malibu Comics. There was no need to worry about quality, though; Malibu poached people from DC to produce the new title, people who had a proven record with Star Trek. Over the last few years they've produced a monthly series, several miniseries and even collaborated with DC on a crossover with ST:TNG. Again, several of these stories are available as books.

Things have changed of late, though, with Paramount's aborted plans to produce their own line of comic books based on the Star Trek property; as a result, the DC and Malibu series have all ended. At the time of writing (late February 1996) the latest news is that the Star Trek franchise has gone to struggling industry giant Marvel Comics. Plans have been announced for a series of comic books to cover not just the various TV series but also pre-Kirk Enterprise adventures, Starfleet Academy and even a Star Trek/X-Men team-up.

Milking the cow dry or a glorious new chapter in the history of Star Trek comics? Only time will tell, and no doubt you good people will be keeping abreast of all developments.

Trek has a long, rich and - let's face it - variable history in the comic strip and comic book media. Sometimes great, sometimes awful, but always of interest. I'm sure that will continue to be the case for many years to come.



WORD TREK

by Valerie Herd

G R O B X U T E E L F R A T S Z E G R O F A L
E A C H A P E L S D E L K A P I M N K R I K P
X D H O G Z X F Y P S N A L U M O R J A K E A
P M E C A R D A S S I A N S T M J N T Q T N R
L S K E S N O I T A R E D E F E R E N G I V I
O N O L P S O S N A R O J A B R W T O R R E S
R A V W O S U L U J K S L D R M O R N Z P Y J
E C L M C C P R L O S T K A R A G V W T R E K
R L M N K O V A Y L T D P O S N O G N I L K C
I U K R M T C Y C O M R S C T Y M T U V O K R
H V H O R T A N G E D A M E N T E P K W O R Y
S O O G A Y L Y U E N C I S T E V R A S U A R
A R U H U W L S I J R I K E R A R A Z V W U E
B E S A N D H A N O A P N N M I E N O E O Q H
E G R B L A V D A T A A E E O D O D N L R E S
R A Y O C C M J N E N N E F K I R A O I F R U
I Y B E Y A T O K A H C L E S R J X G D Q S R
E O B R I E N M A I R E I H I S T A T I O N C
T V W E S L E Y I O R T X E S I R P R E T N E

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BAJORANS	EXPLORE	KIRA	PARIS	SULU
BASHIR	FEDERATION	KIRK	PICARD	TO BOLDLY GO
BORG	FERengi	KLINGONS	Q	TORRES
CARDASSIANS	GARAK	LAFORGE	QUARK	TREK
CHAKOTAY	GORN	LOST	RAND	TROI
CHAPEL	GUINAN	MCCOY	RIKER	TUVOK
CHEKOV	HORTA	MORN	ROMULANS	UHURA
CRUSHER	JAKE	NEELIX	SCOTTY	VOYAGER
DATA	JANEWAY	NOG	SISKO	VULCANS
DAX	KAZON	OBRIEN	SPOCK	WESLEY
DEEP SPACE NINE	KES	ODO	STARFLEET	WOLF
ENTERPRISE	KIM	PAKLEDs	STATION	ZIMMERMAN

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



• THE LONG NIGHT by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch Pocket DS9 14 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

To escape from a revolution, the Supreme Ruler of Jibet, his family and a thousand of his most loyal followers, left their homeworld in the Nibix, to spend the next 70 years in cold sleep and hoping to colonise a new world when they revived; with them they took their wealth, a good half of all the wealth of their home planet.

Eight hundred years later, the Nibix has joined the realms of legendary ships - the great treasure ship of the Supreme Ruler, lost in space... and then a trader tries to sell Quark a small statue that Dax recognises as being Jibetian; Sisko takes the Reliant off on a search for the Nibix, and finds the 800-year-old Ruler still alive.

I've said before that I think the Pocket Books editors give ideas to their writers, and the same basic idea to more than one writer. This story has important elements in common with the last DS9 novel, *Station Rage*. Both books have a long-lost leader who has survived a lengthy period of cold sleep, both books have hidden tunnels in DS9 around which an important plot element revolves... This one, however, is more convincingly written than *Station Rage*. At least the Ruler is in a proper sleep capsule and has suffered considerably from his 800-year-long sleep, and all the others on board are dead. I may have doubts that anyone could survive 800 years in cryogenic sleep, no matter what, but I was able to suspend disbelief in *The Long Sleep* where I couldn't in *Station Rage*.

There is one subplot concerning the tunnels left rather unresolved, but the way it's done it's hardly surprising, and in real life not everything is always explained neatly - consider the number of unsolved crimes in police records.

Jake gets a good and credible look-in

which reflects nicely on the authors' treatment of him as no longer a child but a young man, though I thought they were rather less successful with the Ferengi. Bashir, too, is nicely handled, but I felt O'Brien wasn't handled quite as well as he might have been. The authors' own characters play little part, the major roles being left with the series regulars, but there is some nice potential in most of them.

One or two grammatical boops did set my teeth rather on edge - shined is not the past tense of shine! - but there were far fewer of these than in some of the more recent novels. I'd give this one 8/10.

• THE MURDERED SUN by Christie Golden Voy6 Pocket Books Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Sensors indicate a possible wormhole nearby, and Janeway decides to investigate. What she finds is a concavity that is sucking hydrogen from a nearby sun, aging it prematurely - and leaving a populated planet with some 24 years of life. The planet is also being raided by an enemy race which threatens anyone who enters what it describes as its space.

I felt Janeway gave herself a lot of worry over nothing in this story. The Prime Directive is quoted again and again - yet basically, the Prime Directive isn't involved, although nobody ever admits that. I also felt that there was quite a lot of padding in the story; I thought it would have moved more smoothly if it had been about 200 pages long instead of 277.

The writer's own characters were nicely developed, but were not really as alien as they might have been; without the physical description, I felt they could have been Humans; perhaps that was why Paris was given a fear of their physical type, to keep reminding the reader that they were aliens.

I wasn't totally happy with the story's

treatment of the attacking race, and have a few other quibbles concerning general credibility. 6/10.

• **ROGUE SAUCER** by John Vornholt
TNG39 Pocket Books
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

When the saucer section of the Enterprise-D needs extensive repairs, Admiral Nechayev assigns Picard and a small volunteer crew to test a new design of saucer which will land safely on a planet in case of emergency. Unfortunately, the computer is affected by a virus...

All the above sounds simple - when things go wrong, however (surprise, surprise!) - it leads to a story I found highly lacking in credibility. I can accept a computer virus 'sticking' the ship in a simulation; I can't believe that the simulation would actually cause damage, and I'm very suspicious of the resolution of the situation. I also spotted a major twist - I could almost say *the* major twist - at least twenty pages before it was revealed - it was becoming too predictable.

In its own way the story is exciting enough, Vornholt's own characters ring convincingly enough, there are one or two nice scenes (although I felt the one with Troi in the poker game was contrived just to give her a bit to do), the story is well enough written and - within the parameters of the situation - well developed; but I had to struggle to finish it. There were too many things in it I couldn't believe in, in which I was unable to suspend disbelief. I've read stories which, when I'd reached the end, I decided I couldn't believe in, but where the storytelling was convincing while I was reading it. This was not one of them. Mr Vornholt is a capable writer; I feel this, however, must rate as one of the poorest things he has ever written. A disappointing 5/10.

• **A FLAG FULL OF STARS** by Brad Ferguson
Classic 54, Pocket Books
Reviewed by Martin Stahl

This novel takes place a few months

before ST:TMP. Admiral Kirk is observing the refitting of the Enterprise on Earth and the saucer section is ready for its departure into Earth's orbit. His marriage with Lori Ciana is not going well, and he is also not very happy with his new position on Earth. But the story focuses mainly on G'dath, a Klingon scientist living and working on Earth whose scientific work was appreciated neither by the Klingons nor on Earth so that he has to work in New York as a teacher. He is part of a cultural exchange program between the Federation and the Klingon Empire, and never gives up hope that one day he would get to work as a researcher in one of the Terran institutes. He is a victim of the prejudices the people on Earth have against Klingons, and even his students let him feel them.

When I heard at first about this book several years ago, I could not bring myself to buy it. I am not a Kirk fan, and a novel focussing on him and having him married? Jim Kirk? Add to that another story about Klingons, and I had no intention to read it. When it appeared on the German book market some months ago I finally bought it. To my surprise I enjoyed it much more than expected and read it at one sitting (to be fair, I was on holiday, lying on a beach, and had plenty of time!)

A Flag Full of Stars deals with prejudice and several parts of the novel are written from G'dath's position. Gene's vision presented us with a future where prejudices do not exist any longer and where no one is judged by his heritage. But what we saw on aired Trek were only people working in space together with aliens every day. This book shows us some young people who have no experience with aliens and are in the same situation as many of us today, having no contact with foreign people and knowing little about them and their customs.

Several things annoyed me in this novel, as well as in Brad's other book, Crisis on Centaurus. The author seems to have problems with his imagination of the 23rd century. It is believable to celebrate the 300th launch of the first satellite and the of the first moon landing, but Mr Ferguson also wants to

make us believe that the 4th July, Independence Day of the United States, is still celebrated. The whole story gives the impression that all the nations on Earth still exist, and even the title "Flag Full of Stars" refers to the Stars and Stripes of the US.

I could never accept this book as Trek"fact", but it was a nice entertainment for several hours.

• LETTERS TO STAR TREK by Susan Sackett Ballantine Books
Reviewed by Martin Stahl

For many years Susan Sackett was Gene's personal assistant, and in this book she presents a collection of the many letters Star Trek received from 1966 to 1977 when this book was written. There were so many kinds of letter; from those telling about how Star Trek influenced their lives to children asking for a phaser to shoot at their stupid little sister. Those letters tell more about most fans than all the analyses do. There is one fan who named her daughter after a ST episode: Miri. Or the other fan who went into labour but did not go to hospital until the Trek episode of the day was over. Of course there are also many letters from fans all over the world of many different religious and ethnic groups telling how Star Trek influenced their lives or how they wanted to use a particular episode to teach their students. A chapter is dedicated to collectors who wrote to Paramount not only asking for autographs of the actors, but also of the Enterprise, or asking for communicators or even Kirk's ripped shirt in case he did not want it himself.

Many of these letters are very amusing, but there are also those that are very moving, like the one about a child who first regained consciousness after being in a coma for several days when *The Trouble With Tribbles* appeared on the TV screen. Very interesting is the chapter about Star Trek and education, for examples about Star Trek seminars or even college courses. When it was announced that a Star Trek movie would be produced many fans wrote presenting their ideas for it ("in sickbay, why not add a dentist and maybe a ship's head shrink").

As I am on the committee of a Star Trek club myself, I get from time to time similar letters (Dear Star Trek club, please send me an autograph) and it is a comfort that even the Great Bird of the Galaxy got them. Some of those letters are really bad, while others are pleasant and thought-provoking. Letters to Star Trek is out of print for several years, but if you can get a secondhand copy, buy it.

• THE ART OF STAR TREK by J & G Reeves-Stevens Pocket Books 1995 300 pages £35 Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is a large hard-backed format book full of illustrations, sketches, pictures etc, from all aspects of ST.

The book comes in 2 parts; part 1 has individual chapters on all the ST series including the animated; part 2 looks at the films individually.

It's a beautiful, glossy-paged book, looking into the background, concepts, aliens, makeup, ship design in great detail, to show the final finished product on our screens. Just designing a starship (whether the Enterprise-D or Voyager) is thoroughly researched. There are plenty of pictures of padds, props, weaponry and costumes. The ST costumes go through many changes before we see the finished item!

The first picture in the book is from *The Cage* - of the planet; I would love to have it on my wall! - while the final picture, of Balok from the *Corbomite Maneuver* still frightens me the way it did when I first saw the episode as a child.

At £35 it is very expensive, but a collectible item. Buy if you can afford it. (Fortunately, I got a 30% discount off my copy!)

• ST:DS9 - THE LOOKING-GLASS WAR
Malibu Comics, issue 1 - 3 £1.50 each
Reviewed by Lesley Moyes

In Star Trek, I am a real sucker for alternative universe stories, especially as my all-time favourite TOS episode has to be *Mirror, Mirror*. I love the DS9 *Mirror*

episodes too, and this story is no exception. (It would be far too expensive for TV!)

This has everything and the characterisation is spot on! The premise (I won't spoil too much for you) is one in which an exact duplicate of the Defiant comes through the wormhole, containing an alternate Curzon Dax as its sole crewmember.. He is trying to stop a war between the Federation and the Dominion in his universe, has abducted Odo (who is the only person who can maintain a peace between the two powers) as the war is caused when Odo's alternate self is murdered for personal reasons; so the real Odo must find the culprit before all hell breaks loose.

Some of the highlights in this story are a glimpse of one universe where the Borg have control of DS9 and we see an almost assimilated Miles O'Brien who, in that universe, has lost his family to the Borg; the return of the young Jem'hadar from The Abandoned, and what seems like the evil Jem'hadar leader Third Talak Tolan (an undiscovered villain) from the classic The Jem'hadar. It's a pity Eris did not make a much overdue reappearance either! Mind you, it's great to see T-Rul again (who has now turned into Seska in Voyager) - is she really a Founder?! :-). Plus - check the badges out too - they look really nifty!

All in all I really enjoyed this story, and for any other DS9 fans who enjoy the Dominion stories, this series is highly recommended. The continuity is spot on. Buy or the Jem'hadar will get you! - and check out the twist in the ending! 10 out of 10.

• **VIDEO REVIEW - ST:DS9 Volume 4.1 :
THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR**
by Christopher Howell

'You're too late - we are everywhere'
Changeling to Odo - The Adversary - ST:DS9

The Founders of the Dominion have created a great sense of panic in the Alpha Quadrant. Everyone is expecting to find the changelings disguised as their underwear or in their Earl Grey Tea, which leads to the Cardassians closing their borders, DS9's maintenance crews working overtime and

the Klingons taking the initiative.....

The long-awaited 90 minute season opener has finally arrived, and doesn't disappoint. The new-look titles make the station seem more 'alive', and leads on to the best-all round Trek since Best of Both Worlds, with a storyline superior to Star Trek: Generations! Although everyone knows that the Klingons going to war serves as a plot device to bring Worf on board, the surprising thing is that this episode does it convincingly. This is one of those Trek instalments where everything gels together perfectly (Pun intended - gel, changelings, get it?). The performances are excellent, particularly from the leading man. Since *The Search*, Sisko has become a more interesting character to watch and Avery Brooks continues in the same vein here - it's amazing what decent stories, a lack of hair, a new girlfriend and an extra pip can do for a character! The rest of the cast also shine, including of course, Michael Dorn.

The Guest Stars don't fail either. Andrew Robinson's Garak in particular catches the eye. There's nice moments of humor here as well - Garak and Quark comparing the Federation to Root Beer ("*...but do you know what's really frightening? If you drink enough of it, you begin to like it...*") and Dukat and Garak ("*Now, why don't you go back to your little tailor shop, and sew something*") among the highlights.

Good use of music, direction and of course an decent story carry across the tension between The Federation and The Warrior race well, while action fans will love the Defiant's rescue of the Cardissian Government and DS9 itself fighting with the massive Klingon Task Force - the latter sequence makes Best of Both Worlds look like a minor interstellar playground fight!

Any flaws? Well, yes, Garak's role in the downfall of the Klingons and the real reason behind Commander Kaybok's execution are not fully explained on the small screen - anyone interested should check out the novelization by Diane Carey. The Klingons beaming into Ops obviously haven't been to Boarding Party School, judging by the way they draw their weapons *after* transporting over, and is it me, or does Gowron slip into a

French Accent sometimes while speaking to Worf?

Otherwise, its an Epic! 10 out of 10, and considering the new state of affairs in the Alpha Quadrant, the Dominion must be laughing their socks off.....

'.....The Klingon Empire will remember what has happened here. You have sided against us in battle, and this, we do not forgive.....or forget.'

Gowron - The Way of the Warrior - ST:DS9

• **The Star Trek Omnimedia CD ROM**
Reviewed by Stephen Daniels - Prices vary, £34.9 9 at Virgin.

This really is a terrific volume, though not for the reasons I thought. When I bought it I thought "Voice activated, great, just like in Star Trek". One of the first things I did when I got the CD was disable the voice recognition software - it is useless. When you say one letter, it hears another. In fact the only thing it seemed to hear me saying correctly was "Deactivate Omnimedia"!

Other than that, though, it is very good - esp if you want to find specific details on a character, actor, ship, inanimate object etc.. The cross referencing is terrific, as are the search facilities. There are tons of photos and short video clips, a topics mode that lasts a few minutes and covers several different Trek topics (fiction and non fiction) narrated by Mark Lenard (Sarek). It is great for amateur research (and perhaps professional too?).

The whole Omnimedia is set out like a TNG on-screen graphic, with the computer (Majel Barret) making remarks as it processes your commands. As the info in it will change as time goes on, you get one free upgrade to the next 'edition', which I hear has decent voice recognition capabilities, and a better search engine. You can also add in your own text to entries.

It is available for the PC or Mac. The faster the computer & more RAM the

better - of course.

A good buy. 8/10.

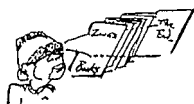
• **TECHNOCULTURE** Constance Penley and Andrew Ross (editors) Cultural Politics, vol 3. Pub. University of Minnesota Press, 1991. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

"The groups examined (in this book) range from high-tech office workers, Star Trek fans and Japanese technoporn producers to teenage hackers, AIDS activists, rap groups and rock stars."

OK, it's media stuff, man. But there's a long chapter on Trek slash publishing, plus two well drawn and explicit pics of Kirk and Spock - looking nothing like Shatner and Nimoy, I might add. Most researchers seem fascinated by the fact that most (all?) slash writers are female. So far, no-one has come up with a good reason why. Maybe writing a story "about two men avoids the built in inequality of the romance formulas"? Well, maybe.

An interesting read, if you're into pop culture. Check it out in your library.





ZINE REVIEWS

• **KINGS OF PROPHECY** by Gloria Fry
Reviewed by Joan Foxley

This is volume 2 (a sequel to Book of Prophecy) of a story set in an alternate universe where magic rules. The first part left the Heroes of the Prophecy - the bridge crew (without Scotty), McCoy and Chapel - having partially succeeded in their destined tasks. But they are scattered across the land of Arigol which remains firmly in the grip of the evil lord Medrikhor, from whose castle Spock has escaped imprisonment. Kirk is also in danger: after rescuing Ayronnd he has been carried off by an ogre.

The second volume begins with a one-page resume of the Mage. (This is only to jog the memory, it is not a substitute for reading the first volume.) Then the various strands are picked up and woven together. The chapters reflect this, being generally rather longer than in the first volume.

There are some neat inventions. In particular, I liked the Dragon-Queen, the sea-snake whose loneliness echoes Spock's own, Spock's swimming lessons (I'll not elaborate - see the front cover) and the combining of Sera's ring and Evilsbane, the spear.

And there are the requisite servants of evil - the harpies are particularly menacing, and the Forest Hag reappears when least

expected. I should also mention that some of the battle descriptions are not for the faint-hearted and the short fight between the ogres is definitely not for the squeamish.

There is humour too - for example, when Chekov, Sulu and Chapel have to get the stone from the Dragon-Queen. And sadness, when Deven (the unicorn foal) is attacked. And love, for Uhura from Gwilym and for Chapel from Emrys.

Finally all the verses are satisfied, the prophecy is fulfilled and Medrikhor seems to be defeated. The interaction between the characters is again original and well-written, with good 'in character' dialogue, the development of non-standard groupings and exciting cliff-hangers.

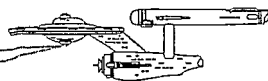
Again there is some stunning artwork by Maggie Symon (for Kirk fans this time) also now available as T-shirts, S M & L - £11 inc P&P.

Although I do not usually read fantasy, I found this zine, together with Vol 1, to be an excellent read.

Kings of Prophecy (106 pages A4 format, large print, heat-bound spine) by Gloria Fry is available (£5 inc P&P) from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort St, Glasgow, G41 3XG



NEW ZINES



See zine ads for ordering details.

Scotpress

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 94. Sometimes First Contact can be really dangerous; Kirk learns the tragic consequences of breaking the Prime Directive; Kirk and Spock take the first steps towards becoming friends; Spock chooses a

Starfleet career; a strange painting poses a problem for Kirk; when Joanna McCoy joins the ship, it is to tell her father that she is married to Spock; Uhura arranges a party.

MAKE IT SO 26 - The men in the crew are attracted to a new crewmember; The Soong laboratory is raided; a lab assistant helps a disconnected android; Spot joins an Away

your total order.

Foreign prices: Europe, add 50p per zine for A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC. We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Send submissions of TNG, DS9 & VOYAGER material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage below.

Postage rates - surface 0 - 2 lbs, \$7; \$2.35 for each additional pound; airmail (except France) 0 - 1lb \$9.50; 1.1lb - 5 lbs \$5.26 per pound; over 5lbs, \$4.25 per pound. Add insurance, up to \$50, \$1.60; \$51 - \$100, \$2.40; \$101 - \$200, \$3.50.

Prices quoted are for UK/European readers; US/Canada readers should SASE Peg and Bill for proper US pricing.

TALES OF FELDMAN The ultimate Mary Sue gone bad novel. 200 pages, \$20; **MORE TALES OF FELDMAN** - follow-up to the above; and just as hilarious! 200 pages, \$20. Each 1 lb; **BEYOND FARPOINT 5** - \$18; 1lb. **BODY ELECTRIC 2** - \$13. 12 oz. **HEROES** - all DS9 zine from Frick & Frack Press. Four action-packed novellas! 247 pages, \$17, 1.4 lbs. Voyager, DS9 and TNG submissions being accepted for issue 2 - send submissions to Tiffany White, 905 Vernon Rd, Cochran, GA 31014, USA.

Authorised US agent for ScoTpress/IDIC, Deep Dark Press, Gloria Fry, Kay Staggs, Janet Ellicott, Linda Wood, BSFR, PPS Press, Airwaves Special Editions, Naked Now (South Africa). We are also US agent for Horizon, the B&B Appreciation Society and Judith Proctor.

Many zines available. We are authorised to reprint the following zines; out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5; R & R; Archives; Showcase; Masiform D; Quartet + 2; all T'Kuhlian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add

1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. Our British agents are Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 9HG and Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE to either for British prices.

Greycloud Services

"Star Trek" and many other zines always available from Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN. I agent for Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, Bjo Trimble and Bernice Russell, and publish my own zines as well as dealing in secondhand zines. Send me a large (at least A5) SAE for a copy of my list.

LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE issue 2 - a multi-series zine. Picard's in trouble, Bashir has women trouble and McCoy has a long wait; plus many others. New price £3.00. Orders to Katrina Heintz, 23 Birniehill Avenue, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR.

Lindsey J Shelton

THE BETAZED EFFECT - A4 format, UK price £3.50

*The following zines will not be sold to anyone under 18 and an age statement should accompany each order. Zines marked * contain explicit material.*

THE AWAKENING * A4 UK price £5.00; **STOLEN LIVES** A4 UK price £4.50; **BEYOND REALITY** * A4 UK price £3.50 (See New Zines for description) Lindsey J Shelton, 94 Parkes St, Smethwick, Warley, West Mids B67 6BH.

Merry Men Press

All zines put out by Merry Men Press contain either K/S stories, art and poetry or other "/". Age statement required.

Currently in new release: **FIRST TIME 43**; **SCATTERED STARS 7**; **WITHIN THE MIRROR 10**; **WHERE ANGELS FEAR** (a K/S novel); **PLAYFELLOWS 9** (DS9 stories) SASE for info. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Ed, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Gloria Fry (12/95)

New: **KINGS OF PROPHECY** - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 2 (Sequel to 'Book Of Prophecy') in which Kirk and his

comrades continue their quests and attempt to fulfil the prophecy if they are to save the land of Arigol and its inhabitants from the King of Evil. A4 format. 106 pages. UK:£5. Europe: £6 or £5+3Irc's (incl p&p). **BOOK OF PROPHECY** - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 1 A4 format. 98 pages. UK: £5. Europe: £6 or £5+3 Ircs (incl p&p). Short run of T-shirts available M, L, XL. (Kirk or Spock) UK: £11 each. Europe: £12 or £10+5 Irc's (incl p&p). Also available cards - Kirk or Spock 60p each. For up to five cards add 30p for p&p. For up to ten cards add 50p for p&p. **SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR** The Mirror-Kirk, after a purge against all who oppose him, takes vengeance on his and Spock's counterparts. A4 format. 124 pages. UK: £6. Europe: £7 or £5+5 Irc's (incl p&p). Available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW, G41 3XG. I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell my zines in America.

BJO TRIMBLE'S SCI-FI SPOTLITE

A bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Sample copy \$3 USA, \$4 elsewhere. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$15. Make cheques/money orders payable to: 8000-Trekker. Bjo Trimble's Sci-Fi Spotlight, c/o 800-Trekker, P.O. Box, 13131, Reading PA 19612-3131 USA. Foreign subscriptions: Contact the

Subscription Agent nearest to you for local rates before writing to the U.S. address.

Canada: Star Trek Association of Regina, POB 36007, Regina, Sask, S4S 7H9 Canada.

United Kingdom Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN.


Europe: Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany

Australia: Shayne McCormack 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197, Australia.

Orient: Masako Noguchi, 1-9-1 1006 Chikko Minato-ku, Osaka 552, Japan.

A BIT OF NOOKIE - The Voyages of the BIT nuq'IH Have you ever wondered what life is like on a Klingon warship? Here at last is your chance to find out. Price £5 including P&P. Send to Teresa Tyler, 1 Sandford Gardens, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1QT

Genzines by Kay Stagg

Kirk & Spock orientated, H/C. Cheques payable to Kay Stagg, and send orders to 33 Barrack Rd, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Price includes UK P&P. Europe, send an IRC for info on cost. New zine - **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**, £6.80. Other zines available - for list send SAE to above address. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; SAE or IRC to him for prices. 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



FAN CONVENTION DIARY - a fan production funded by voluntary contribution. It is completely independent of any fan group or organisation, and exists to provide details of conventions and similar events throughout the year. The diary lists both Star Trek and other media conventions. Send an SAE for a copy to Anne Page, 30 Fellowes Way, Broadway, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8BW.

MINI-CON April 20 1996 USS Victoria, Darlaston, Walsall, West Midlands. Darlaston Multi-Purpose Centre, Victoria Road 10am-4pm. Entrance £1 Adults + £1 charity donation for the County Air Ambulance - 50p children.

WARP TWO The 41st British Star Trek Convention. 2nd to 6th May 1996, Cardiff International Arena. Confirmed guests (subject to work commitments): Robert Picardo, Nana Visitor, Walter Koenig, Mark Lenard, Richard Arnold. Registration £35. For details send a large SASE to Warp Two, David Simons, 69, Merlin Crescent, Edgware,

Middx, HA8 6JB, England.

NEXUS 96 14th-16th June 1996 Star Trek & Science Fiction Convention, The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Bristol. Organised by BSFR and the British Astronomical Society. Guests: Ethan Phillips (Neelix - Voyager), Dave Prowse (Darth Vader - Star Wars), Richard Arnold, Tim Gaskill, Steve Parkinson (Bristol Exploratory). Programme includes videos, science programme, model exhibition, dealers rooms, evening disco, Fancy Dress competition plus lots more. Registration £35 Full weekend - other rates available. For SAE for full details including room rates to Nexus 96, 26 Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PQ.

MERIDIAN 21 - 23 June 1996 in the Rieckhof in Hamburg, Germany. Confirmed guests Marc Alaimo, Bjo Trimble, Dean Jones (make-up artist). Send SAE or SASE to Antje Freudenberg, Scharnbecker Weg 5, 21365 Adenhof, Germany,

VISICON 22nd-23rd June 1996. Dublin City University. Guest of Honour is Nana Visitor (Major Kira Nerys, DS9) Special Guest is Robert Picardo (Doc Zimmerman, ST Voyager). The guest list grows: We are delighted to have Diane Duane (author of Spock's World and Dark Mirror), Peter Morwood (author of Rules of Engagement and the Demon Lord series) and Michael Carroll (author of the Pelicos Trilogy) The convention charity is the Coombe Maternity Hospital. Registration ranges from 35 Irish pounds (early registration) to 40 pounds on the day. For full info and registration form, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: VISICON, PO BOX 1996, Dublin 14. E-Mail Info: wise@iol.ie

CONSTITUTION III 5th to 7th July, 1996. Tollgate Motel, Gravesend Kent. Registration: Full £20, 5-16/disabled £10, under 5's free. Room rate £29.50 pppn for twin/double room. SAE for info to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

CONTAGION, The Sixth Annual Scottish Star Trek Convention. Your only choice for the best guests and most fun in 1996. 13 - 15

July 1996 at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel (formerly Hospitality Inn). Registration £36. Under 5s FREE. Accommodation available at Glasgow Thistle, Charing X Tower Hotel and Baird Hall to suit all budgets. Confirmed guests: Richard Arnold and character actor Jerry Hardin. Jerry has appeared in 3 episodes of The Next Generation (When The Bough Breaks & Times Arrow Parts 1 & 2) and more recently an episode of Star Trek: Voyager (Emanations). However, it is perhaps as the character of Deep Throat on The X-Files that most SF fans will instantly know Jerry. Others to be announced. All proceeds to charity. For full details contact Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 4HR, FaxBack: 0141-429 8223, email: contagion@awayteam.demon.co.uk, www: <http://www.cityscape.co.uk/users/fn45/startrek.html>

D.E.S O'CONN - A 12 - 15 July, 1996 Holiday Inn Leicester. Star Trek/SF Convention. British & American guest talks. Latest episodes, Fancy Dress, Debates, fun & games. Full Reg £25.00. 2 & 1 day rates available. For full details and registration form send a SASE to D.E.S. O'CONN-A, Tina Lukacs & Simon Hage, 270 St Annes Road. South Shore, Blackpool, Lancs. FY4 2QR.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL'S FANTASTICON Aug 2-4, 1996 (3 days) Los Angeles Airport Hilton, West Century Blvd. The convention of the year for anyone who can get to Los Angeles. See Subspace Chatter for more information.

CONCORDE 42nd British Star Trek Convention. 23rd-26th August 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London. It is a charity event. Registration for full weekend from 1/1/96 £33 rising to £35 on 1/5/96. Confirmed guests (subject to work commitments): William Campbell (Trelane, Koloth), Patricia Tallman - TNG, DS9, Voyager; stunt co-ordinator on Generations: telepath Lyta Alexander in B5. Also Eric Stillwell; Ray Harryhausen pioneer of stop-motion SFX; John Carrigan - actor/stuntman; Matt Irvine BBC SFX man; Lee Sullivan - TekWars comic artist; Doug Millard from The Science Museum; Steve Wilson - mythologist. Also video rooms,

parties, dealers' and full science and alternative scfi programmes. For full details send SAE to: 138 Crosslands, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6DF.

LIGHTSPEED '96. 13-15th September, 1996. The Leeds Hilton National, Leeds. Star Trek 30 year celebration. USA Guest Barbara March (Lursa). Other Guests Dr Jack Cohen, Debbie Griffin (US Agent). Rates £35 for full registration. Reduced rates for Children/One day registrations. A packed programme of events including Guest talks, Competitions, Videos, Dealers, Disco and lots more. SAE for information and registration form to: Lightspeed '96, 16 Bramwell St, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

MIDCON 15. Europe's longest running Star Trek Convention. October 4th-6th, 1996. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Confirmed guest, Chase Mastersen (Leeta, DS9). For details send SAE to: Midcon 15, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

ASSIMILATION - The Double Main Event at the Britannia Hotel, Daventry. 11th - 14th October 1996. Guests so far: Andrew Robinson (Garek - DS9), Jason Carter (Marcus Colc - Babylon 5), with more guests to be added. Full Reg £35, other rates available. SAE to Assimilation, Side Entrance, 120 Headstone Road, Harrow, Middx HA1 1PF.

NORCON 16-17 November 1996. Everglade Hotel, Derry City, Co, London. N. Ireland. Theme: 30 years of Star Trek Fandom. SAE for info to Norcon, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon Town Co. Clare, Ireland.

TEROK NOR (44th British Star Trek Convention. 22nd - 25th August 1997, The Radisson Edwardian, London. SAE for info to Terok Nor, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

OTHER EVENTS

WOLF 359 THE ENCOUNTER 7th to 10th June 1996. The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Guests: Bruce Boxleitner, Rene Auberjonis, J Michael Straczynski, Michael O'Hare. Also appearing Bill Mumy, Stephen

Furst, Gareth Thomas, Ron Thornton & George Marshall. Full registration £40. SSAE for details to Wolf 359, 141 Waarden Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9BE.

CULT TV 1996 25th - 28th October 1996. Venue: Haven Action Centre, Caister, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. Registration: £34 before 30/4/1996, £39 between 1/5/96 and 31/8/96, £44 between 1/9/96 and 21/10/96. Cult TV covers many TV programmes including: Star Trek, Babylon 5, The X-Files, VR5, Sliders, The Avengers, Dr Who, Red Dwarf, Blake's Seven, Q Leap, and The Prisoner. For more information send an email to me at 101330,2476. Please include your postal address. 2. Send your name and address to Cult TV 1996 (CIS), PO Box 1701, Peterborough PE1 1EX

WHO'S 7 STRIKES BACK (WHO'S 7 1996) 26/27 October 1996 at the Ashford International Hotel, Ashford, Kent. Full registration £40.00 (until 30/4/96) then £45 - supporting £20.00. Guests, videos, games and lots of other things! Contact Who's 7 Strikes Back, 10 Filebrook Hall, Filebrook Road, Leytonstone, London E11 1AG, England. E-Mail: lexin@cix.compulink.co.uk.

FANTASTICON U.K. 24 - 26 May 1997. Harrogate International Conference Centre. Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, Cult TV/Radio. Guests galore! - William Campbell, Edward Hardwicke, Barrie Ingham. Special 20th Anniversary celebration of Star Wars - featuring 'The Men behind the Masks' - Dave Prowse (Darth Vader), Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), Kenny Baker (R2D2), Warwick Davis (Wicket). Harry Harrison, Ramsey Campbell, Lisa Tuttle, David Gemmell, Dr. Jack Cohen. More TBA. Programme includes: Videos, talks, writers panels, workshops, late night fan programme and cult radio. Rates £45 full attending (discounts available). Details (include SAE) from Fantasticon UK, 38 Planetree Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 9TH.

VOYAGE 97 the 2nd British Convention devoted to 'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea'. 25th-27th July 1997, Novotel, Sheffield. Reg: £30 until 31/7/96 then £35. A small friendly convention with a full programme. For

further info and registration form send SAE to: Voyage 97, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

PERSONAL COLUMN

One last try. ARE THERE ANY TREKKERS IN NORWICH!!!! (Or East Anglia!) I am a very lonely Trekker out in deep space (at least that's what it seems like). Write to Adam J North, 88 Aylesham Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 2HN. They say, "In space, no-one can hear you." Maybe it's true.

New Trekker in the Norwich area seeks fans nearby. Perhaps if there is enough interest we could form a club. I've got an extensive collection of TNG videos as well as a few Voyagers. If you are interested contact Jo Dale at c/o ENV 1, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ. Or E-mail me at J.Dale@uea.ac.uk.

Penpals wanted, 18+: must like at least TNG, DS9 and Voyager; Classic fan also welcome. I'm 22. You can contact me, Michael Johnson, at 30 Grosvenor Street, Leek, Staffs ST13 5NA

The Kaferian Apple Club is back! If you're going to WOLF 359, look out for the KAC dealers table (in the dealers room). All your fruity questions will be answered; watch out for special guest appearances, meet the dynamic duo Kacman and Robean (you might if you're lucky meet the mysterious Kacgirl), and we'll even let you buy us a pint if you want! Please note: if we're not at the table, you can find us in the bar.



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied

material which breaks copyright.

IDIC Guide Dog List - This has been updated recently by some zines, professional magazines and a lot of novels (mainly TOS and TNG, but one or two DS9 and Voyager too). SAE for list to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH

FOR SALE - Trading card singles of the following sets - TNG Inaugural, TNG episode seasons 1, 2 & 3, Voyager series 1 & 2, 25th Anniversary 1 & 2, DS9, Masterpiece and Masterseries. Some sets and bonus cards available. Also available, TNG Panini stickers and TNG customizable game card (limited and unlimited) and the TNG alternate universe cards. For lists please send SAE to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE - Star Trek collection including videos, books, photos, magazines, toys, trading cards, cuttings and much more. Send SAE for list to Anne-Marie Flack, 5 Warwick Rd, Ashford, Middx TW15 3PQ

FOR SALE - IDIC newsletters (various) also Patrick Stewart fan club Newsletters both IAAPS and PSAS. Price 75p each plus 50p each postage&packing. Send SAE for full list to Elaine McCue, 109 Athelstane Rd. Glasgow G13 3QY

FOR SALE - Selection of Star Trek and ST:TNG novels and large format books. Send a stamped addressed envelope for price list to: P Morley, 407 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood Lancs. FY7 8HN.

WANTED - Hamilton Collection Plates. The original series 25th Anniversary Plates (Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Scott, Chekov, Uhura, Sulu, Enterprise and the Crew.) Please contact me if you have any of the 9 plates above for sale and state the prices wanted. John Hurlles, 43A Cadoc Street, Kirkhill, Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8LQ.

WANTED - copy of pattern for TOS or DS9 style uniform. Will pay postage and all expenses. Write soon to Annette Bohm, Kuhstr. 35, 42555 Langenberg, Germany.

WANTED - Official Fan Club Magazine, numbers up to 70, and 101 +. Final Frontier Magazine No 17 onwards. Official Magazine Series (TNG) No 30 onwards; also wanted, any Voyager videos. Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ



CLUBS & GROUPS



UPDATE

WANTED - Original Playmates Tasha Yar figure. Will pay a reasonable price. Contact Alex Francis, 'Silverdale', Market Rd, Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Gwent NP3 4QD, S Wales.

WANTED - Has anyone got any Starsky & Hutch, Knighttrider or Bodie & Doyle zines? I will pay any reasonable price. Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX

WANTED - I desperately need someone to swap customizable card game cards with (white border edition). Reply guaranteed. Send your lists to James O Donovan Jnr, 14 Mount Vernon Tce, St Lukes, Cork, Ireland.

WANTED - Star Trek true type fonts from TOS, TNG, DS9 and Voy, for IBM compatibles/Windows 95. Will send a floppy and SAE to return it in. Also does anyone have B5 comics that they want to sell for reasonable prices? Contact Alan Scobbie, 36 Newlands Rd, Grangemouth, Central Region, Scotland FK3 8NX

WANTED - Videofreak looking for some missed episodes of series like Onedin Line, Saint, Invaders, Sledge Hammer, Highlander and others (SF). Thousands of hours in exchange or will pay any reasonable prices. E-Mail to disteines@aol.com.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the UK, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA. £14.99 for 4 magazines. Tel No. 01923-818495. Fax for membership information is: 01923-225885.

People can write to Tim Gaskill direct via e-mail: elmerisdog@mail.bogo.co.uk or TGASKILL@delphi.com
Post PO BOX 6463, London, N22 4JU
Fax 0181-888-8008.

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp.

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

"G.H.T": George Takei's Official Worldwide Fan Club. Please note new address. Send SASE for details to: Jackie Edwards, "Hedgeways", 10 Avalon Estate, Wells Road, Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9AA.

Emisarry: The Avery Brooks Fan Club. For info send e-mail to Emisarry1@aol.com or baw44883@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu.

The Official Andy Robinson Fan Club c/o Katherine Elizabeth Hanna, 6301 N. 19th St., Arlington, VA 22205 USA. European Contact, c/o Karen Colohan, 3 Whites Close, Greenhithe, Kent, DA9 9JL.
e-mail Cindy at LadyGarak@aol.com

Robert Beltran has sanctioned, "The Commander" as his official fan club. SAE plus IRC for info to: The Commander, c/o Barbara O'Leary, P.O. Box 183, Reading, PA 19603 USA. Address E-mail inquiries to RBOLady@aol.com Please place "RB Fan Club" in the subject line.

RanDoM Flight : The Official Robert Duncan McNeill Fan Club. Contact Brenda Antrim, c/o RanDoM Flight, PO Box 3583, Abilene, TX 79604 USA or e-mail: bantrim@delphi.com.

Nanites - The Official Nana Visitor Fan Club, established March 7, 1996. Contact Nanites, 10551 Karmont Ave, South Gate CA

90280 USA. email to nanites@teknikos.com
 Web site: <http://rainbow.rmii.com/blanche/DS9/nanites.html>

Symbiotics, a fan club newsletter dedicated to Terry Farrell/Jadzia Dax! SAE plus IRC for info to: Megan Morse, P.O. Box 9892, Hollins College, Roanoke, VA 24020 USA. Or e-mail: MorseM@minnie.hollins.edu

The Klingon Language Institute exists to facilitate the scholarly exploration of the Klingon language and culture. They are the people translating the Bible and the works of Shakespeare. For details of the group and projects write to Klingon Language Institute, P.O. Box 634, Flourtown, PA 19031, USA. Enclose a couple of IRCs. Or you can find details on the WWW site: <http://www.kli.org>

The Transatlantic Star Trek Federation (was the USS European Federation) is back! But it is still absolutely FREE! - a new 14p A4 size magazine every three months. Come join this growing fanzine, located in Toulouse, France, but its members come from all over the Atlantic! In this issue we take a look at Star Trek on the Internet, Voyager (can it, will it, survive?) and the ever-growing Swap Shop. Please send International Reply Coupons to James Woodman, Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grisolles, France.

Starfleet Command - An international organisation modelled upon Starfleet Command as seen in the TV series. It is composed of a network of ships or units throughout the world; for info, SAE to Chief of Personnel, 13 Alderwood Close, Springwell Park, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS2 3QR.

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

Please enclose an SAE when writing for details.

Airdrie - USS
 Renegade, PO Box
 5425, Airdrie,
 Lanarkshire ML6 9BW,
 meets monthly. SAE

for details. **THE GREAT SHUTTLECRAFT RACE** - Charity ten pin bowling event on Sunday May 26th 1996 at Powerdrome Bowl, Lock St, Coatbridge, 12.30 - 5pm; adults £3.50, children £2.50 - proceeds go to the St Andrews Hospice, Airdrie, and the Contagion charity.

Bournemouth - USS Excalibur Star Trek Mini-Conventions at Bournemouth University, Poole House, Wallisdown, Bournemouth. Films, activities, raffles and competitions. Charity - The MacMillan (Cancer) Unit. Entry £2.00 Excalibur members, £2.50 non members. Future dates: 27 April, 18 May, 22 June.

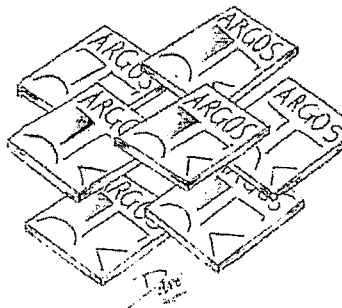
Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Hospitality Inn 10.00am to 10.00pm, £6, (£4 under 14s). Next meetings: 21st April, 2nd June 1996.

Liverpool - Fek'lhr. Star Trek Science Fiction club meets every 1st Sunday of each month 1 - 6 pm. £1.50. New Venue: New Penny Farthing pub/club, 89 St John's Precinct (Roe St), next to Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. For details, SAE J Panter, 51 Church St, Old Swan, Liverpool 13, Merseyside, L13 2AU. Dates of next meetings, April 14, May 5.

London - The London Group: Bi-monthly Trek group, 10.30am-7.00pm, Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. Dates: 11th May, 6th July, 14th September, 2nd November - price £7 per meeting. SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.



THE ENTERPRISE DISCOVERS A
 'CATALOGUE OF ANSWERS AT THE
 "ARGOS" ARRAY...!



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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc or my email; all news, cuttings, info etc. ; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; submissions for the newsletter which have to be typed up - postbag, articles, reviews, adverts etc; TNG & DS9 submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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Dues UK £9.00, USA/Middle East Air \$25.00 (£15.00), Australia £16.00, Europe £11.00.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for

your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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Typing by Janet & Sheila; layout, initial edit and printing of masters by Janet; proof-reading and final edit by Sheila and Valerie.

Title design by Mark Mclean, title illos by Marysia Kolodziej, Helen White & Edward Woo.

Cartoons/Artwork by Julie Evans, David Gallagher.

Printed by Urban Print, 57 Perth Road, Dundee.

Packed by Sheila's Chain Gang

975 copies.